

BRITTAN DENIES TORY MORALITY IS INFERIOR

By NICHOLAS COMFORT Political Staff

MR BRITTAN, Home Secretary, voiced frustration last night at the continuing inability of the Government's critics to depict Conservative ideals as morally inferior to those of the Left.

Recent criticism by bishops and others, he said, showed "how many thoughtful and conscientious people still misunderstand and distrust the Government's ultimate objectives."

He expressed surprise that left-wing critics were still able to gain support for claims that their own policies were inherently superior when the record of socialism at home and abroad had been one of failure.

By contrast, Mr Brittan insisted, the Conservative vision of Britain's future was not only morally superior to the alternatives advanced by the Government's critics, but had also proved more successful in practical terms.

The Home Secretary was speaking at Westminster in a meeting of the Conservative Bow Group, of which he is a former chairman.

His speech not only indicated the extent in which Ministers are irritated by persistent Opposition claims that they do not care about unemployment and other social ills, but also suggested that a fightback was now under way.

'Moral unease'

Ministerial concern is the greater because the scale of the Conservatives' General Election victory last year led them to believe that they had largely won the argument, yet now found that they were having to do so all over again in a changed political climate.

Mr Brittan acknowledged that the Government's policies had given rise to "pervasive moral unease" which was usually channelled into three specific criticisms.

First, there was the attack described as monetarism, by Government was exclusively which they meant that the

on what critics inaccurately concerned with beating inflation and insufficiently so — or not at all — with unemployment.

"The second major criticism levelled against us is, in a word, that we just don't care, or at least we are not perceived to be so. The third major criticism is perhaps the most central in our critics' case: it is that we are making society more unequal and strengthening divisions within it."

The Home Secretary went on to take issue with each of these arguments in turn, insisting for a start that attacks on monetarism were based on a false premise and that reducing inflation was the most important contribution any Government could make towards bringing down unemployment.

Heavily increased

Mr Brittan also defended Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet against claims that they did not care, saying that spending in real terms on Social Services and the National Health Service had been heavily increased.

He could not resist a side-swipe at the Bishop of Durham, complaining that those who had badly needed help from the Government "do not simply fit into the Dickensian categories of children without shoes, beloved of some commentators."

The argument that the Government was dividing society by its policies was equally false, he said. Inequality had more to do with past resistance to change than present efforts to respond to it.

Home-made IRA bombs easier to spot

By OUR BELFAST STAFF

THE success of the Northern Ireland security forces in preventing IRA terrorists obtaining commercial explosives is forcing them to make their own.

Terrorists are now having to make bombs with large quantities of home-made explosives with just a small amount of commercial explosive attached as a "primer."

Home-made explosive, which is usually made out of fertiliser with a high nitrogen content, has only about one quarter of the explosive capability of commercial explosives.

This has meant that the IRA has been forced to lay land mines of between 500lb and 400lb of home-made explosive, usually packed into beer barrels or gas cylinders, when setting an ambush for military and police vehicles.

This makes the task of detecting terrorist attacks much easier for the security forces.

A large number of metal canisters at the side of a road is more easily spotted than a purpose-built military device.

The 500lb of explosive which a gang of IRA terrorists were discovered when they were discovered by SAS troops at the weekend was one of the larger types of home-made bomb placed in recent months.

"Although it was only home-made explosive, it would have had a devastating effect on any passing armoured vehicle," said a senior security official.

Similar amounts of home-made explosive have been used in the past and one such attack completely destroyed an Army Saracen armoured personnel carrier in South Armagh last year.

Metal beer barrels have become popular with the IRA since the mid-70s because they are compact, are easily filled with home-made explosives, are easy to move around and give off a shrapnel effect when detonated, causing the maximum amount of damage.

Doubts on course of economy

By VALERIE ELLIOTT Political Staff

THE Government's autumn statement on the economy was criticised yesterday as "rather unsafe and a gambler's view."

There was also severe criticism of the Government's procedure in deciding public expenditure, and members of the Cabinet were advised to follow more the example of a company board, who collectively made decisions on spending cuts.

Criticisms were made yesterday by the Conservative-dominated Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee, who, in a report, express very serious doubts on the Government's economic course.

At a Press conference to launch the report, Mr Mark Fisher, Labour M.P. for Stoke-on-Trent, said: "The autumn statement is a thoroughly unsafe and precarious gambling assumption."

"He is gambling on a continuing weak pound, and makes the entire statement a rather unsafe and a gambler's view of what might happen if everything works well."

Mr Terence Higgins, committee chairman and Tory M.P. for Worthing, said he thought that both the Chancellor's aim to introduce tax cuts and the admission that the public spending borrowing requirement were "fragile."

"Illusion" condemned While Mr Anthony Beaumont, Tory M.P. for Selly Oak, condemned the Chancellor's promise of tax cuts as "illusion."

He said it ought to be emphasised that if tax cuts were going to be made they would be paid from the nationalised industries. "It is an illusion to talk about tax cuts if people's wages, and electricity prices which they cannot avoid are going to increase."

Their main criticism, however, was unreservedly on the machinery of the Cabinet to change so that they would actually discuss the financing of departments.

Mr John Browne, Conservative M.P. for Winchester, said that just in the light of the growth row it was obvious there was a lack of planning and coordination in Government spending.

Sensitive areas "Hopefully, the Government will accept our comments and there will be proper Cabinet decision on sensitive areas of spending."

While Mr Higgins added that the Cabinet was "too vertical in structure," he said: "It does not get involved in a very serious way. It does not hear the politically-sensitive discussions on options only the Government package."

FEMINIST FRIEND FOR SANTA

Feminist members of Birkbeck Labour party have decided that during the season of goodwill they will enjoy an unfair advantage through the "male stereotype" image of Santa Claus.

To correct the imbalance they have invented their own Mother Christmas who will make her debut tomorrow, dressed in blue and green, alongside a traditional Santa at a party for children of the unemployed and striking miners.



Miss Joy Kinsley, 52, who has been appointed as governor of Brixton Prison, the first woman to hold the post, and (right) Mr Colin Allen, her successor at Holloway Prison.



WOMAN TO RUN BRIXTON

By T. A. SANDROCK Crime Correspondent

MISS JOY KINSLEY, 52, has been appointed the first woman governor of Brixton, the country's toughest remand prison which holds 800 men, some of them top security risks. She will be taking up the post in the New Year.

But it will not be her first experience in running a male prison.

She was the first woman governor of the mainly male prison at Puckchurch, near Bristol. Miss Kinsley, a qualified nursing sister, joined the prison service in 1966, served at several prisons and was deputy regional director, South East, before being appointed governor of Holloway, the Women's Prison in 1982.

Great challenge

She said yesterday that she was delighted at her appointment. "It is a great challenge and I am looking forward to it."

"I have worked in an all-male establishment before so I am used to the different problems that arise."

"Establishments like Holloway and Brixton present different problems, but the prime necessity is that you are able to do your job as a governor well."

Mr Colin Allen, 42, governor of Maidstone Prison, is to take over from Miss Kinsley at Holloway. He became a women's prison in 1902 and has had almost exclusively female governors over the past 40 years.

Other appointments announced were: Miss Alan Rayfield, 48, governor of Parkhurst, to become deputy regional director South West; Mr John Rumball, 49, to governor of Parkhurst; Mr Barry Smith, 49, to governor of Hull; and Mr Richard Tilt, 50, to be governor of Gartree on promotion.

GWENT MINERS SEEK VOTE ON RETURN

A group of striking South Wales miners called yesterday for a ballot on a possible return to work by the 580-strong workforce at Markham Colliery, Gwent, in Mr Neil Kinnock's constituency.

A pithead vote will be demanded when the men attend a lodge meeting on Sunday. Union officials will be challenged to offer any convincing reason for continuing the strike.

But local union officials last night described the back-to-work move as "insignificant."

FOOD HAMPER FOR FAMILIES

Sheffield's Labour controlled city council, which has already spent £100,000 on food vouchers for miners' families, now plans to give every strike-hit family in the city a £50 Christmas food hamper.

The plan has brought an angry reaction from opposition councillors who say there are more deserving cases. The council is to spend £42,000 on providing a hamper for each of the 1,400 miners' families.

MINERS REMANDED

Two striking miners accused of murdering Mr David Wilkie, a South Wales taxi driver, were remanded in custody for another week when they made a brief appearance at Merthyr Magistrates' Court yesterday. An inquest on Mr Wilkie, 35, is due to be formally opened at Merthyr today.

Tugmen may have to pay 'closed shop' bill

By COLIN RANDALL

EIGHT tugmen from Bristol face the prospect of being ordered to share a compensation bill of up to £90,000 in an industrial tribunal case brought by three colleagues who were sacked

for refusing to join the Transport Union.

The eight, including the son of one of the anti-closed shop rebels, have been named as fellow respondents in the case along with the union, and the tug company, Cory King Towage.

Mr Ted Ottway, Mr Martin McNeil and Mr Mike Hoon all claim they were unfairly dismissed from their 1500-a-week jobs.

Cory King sacked them in September because of fears of industrial action arising from the refusal of 33 other tugmen to work with them.

Mr Ottway's son, Mike, is among the eight named in the case because he happened to be on the same tug as meo who indicated they would not work with his father.

No option

Having joined the Transport Union "under pressure" only two days earlier, he was advised by his father at the time that he had no option but to obey his shop steward's instruction.

The company originally included the union as fellow respondents in the case, claiming it had forced management to carry out the dismissals. The firm's decision to involve the eight individual workers is believed to result from the suggestion that it did not threaten industrial action or demand the sackings.

Mr Gerald Hartup of the "Freedom Association," which is representing Mr Ottway and his colleagues, said yesterday that if the industrial tribunal found the men were unfairly dismissed, the next step would be to demand the sackings.

If the men were not given back their jobs, the amount involved could be up to £90,000 from each, depending on the circumstances, with the tribunal deciding which of the respondents should pay.

600 JOBS GO AS GLAZING FIRM FAILS

By Our Business Correspondent Cold Shield, one of the leading double glazing firms, has gone into receivership yesterday. About half of the 600 employees of the Manchester-based concern are expected to lose their jobs.

The loss-making company, formerly owned by Royal Domett, the China group, was acquired less than two months ago by Kean and Scott, the furniture manufacturer, which runs Alpine, another leading double glazing firm.

Alpine will take over the outstanding orders.

UNIVERSITY 'WILL RUN OUT OF CASH'

By Our Education Staff Bristol University will run out of money within two years unless it can find extra funds of more than £1 million a year, Mr David Tudway Quiller, the university treasurer, said yesterday.

'Old boy' network takes place of law with Luxembourg

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

THE sequestrators' initial failure to get hold of the National Union of Mineworkers' £4.7 million deposited with a Luxembourg bank has sharpened British interest in an EEC convention covering civil judgments.

BANK 'HAS ACTED PROPERLY'

By ANNE SEGALL

A SPOKESMAN for the Bank of England said yesterday that the bank has no direct point of contact with Luxembourg as the country's monetary affairs are handled out of Belgium.

"It is extremely unlikely that anyone in the UK would want to interfere in this matter," the bank spokesman said.

Banque Nobis, the Luxembourg bank at the centre of the dispute, comes under the control of the Luxembourg banking commissioner, Mr Pierre Jaans, appointed to supervise the many foreign banks which operate from the Grand Duchy.

But according to Mr Jaans, his concern is to make sure that banks in Luxembourg act prudently, and do not interfere with the details of their customer relationship.

According to Mr Jaans, the response of Banque Nobis to the British Court order, over ownership of N.U.M. funds, has been perfectly proper. "I understand and sympathise with their action," he said.

Mr Jaans said the bank was simply making sure that it would not have to end up paying twice for the same money.

'Communist Scargill' lashed by U.S. writer

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

THE most blistering attack on Mr Arthur Scargill to appear in America's Press was published yesterday in the WASHINGTON POST from a leading American conservative columnist, Mr George Will.

"If Britain named, as TIME magazine does, a 'Man of the Year,' meaning the person who most dominates the news, the winner would be the most detested man in Britain, the union leader. He is a vain, oily, reptilian Stalinist named Arthur Scargill. The name is as Dickensian as Wackford Squeers," a comparably unpleasant character," wrote Mr Will.

Mr Scargill, writes the columnist, "has been sustained by the cowardice of the Labour party, and especially

cially of its leader, Neil Kinnock.

"If Kinnock had the kidney to denounce Scargill as a vicious anti-democrat, Kinnock might not be so generally considered invulnerable."

"Incumbent damage is being done to Britain's public life by corrosive extremism. Recently a mob of Labour M.P.s, operating at the margin of violence and practising emotional intimidation, surged around the floor of the House of Commons. Iore up the notes of the Minister who was speaking and forced adjournment of the session."

"When the leader of the Trades Union Council was insufficiently ardent in a speech in support of the miners, and criticised the violence, he was howled down and a noose was hung over his head."

"Mr Scargill has always denied membership of the Communist party."

Another 63 go back

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

THE Coal Board gave the following figures yesterday from mining areas. These figures do not take account of "new starters" at coal products plants, development sites, or returning members of the N.U.M.'s clerical section.

Normal working	Some coal	Min on strike	Min returning	Total	Workforce
Scotland	2	10	11	2,268	12,500
East of England	15	2	11	3,171	20,200
N. Yorks	12	2	2	575	15,000
Doncaster	14	2	1	1,871	15,000
Barrow	14	1	9	1,402	12,000
S. Yorks	7	2	21	4,785	10,000
N. Derbys	10	1	—	28,500	50,000
S. Mids	10	6	7	8,818	8,538
Western	10	6	—	11,157	12,000
S. Wales	—	7	21	1,177	18,800
Kent	—	3	—	116	2,114

Another 63 miners abandoned the strike yesterday, according to the Coal Board, taking the total so far this week to 556.

The highest number was in the "barometer" colliery of North Derbyshire, which is wedged between striking Yorkshire and working Nottinghamshire. Of its 10,000 miners, 4,785 are now at work.

In Staffordshire, the coal board's Western Region said that 340 miners had returned to normal production for the first time during the strike yesterday.

Of the 16 collieries in the region, 10 are now working normally, with the other six producing some coal.

NOTTS POLICE TO REJOIN SQUAD

Nottinghamshire police are to rejoin the Regional Crime Squad after pulling out earlier this year because of the cost of the miners' dispute. It was decided by the county's police committee yesterday.

It was agreed at talks with Home Office representatives that there would be a review of the squad, which is made up of officers from several counties.

£5 buys him a pair of boots.

Bump cap and hood £8.

Protective jacket £40.

Lifejacket and safety line £72.

Protective trousers £30.

Boots £5.

It's not much to spend on a man who risks his life saving other people's.

Yet every penny that goes towards the lifeboats has to come from voluntary contributions.

You can make yours by joining Shoreline, the lifeboat supporters' club.

All we ask is your annual subscription and you receive our quarterly magazine, Lifeboat.

If you can afford more than £5 perhaps you could buy him a pair of trousers.



To: The Director, R.N.L.I., West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ.
I wish to join Shoreline. Here is my subscription.
Member £5 or more p.a. □ Family Membership £7.50 or more p.a. □
Member & Governor £15 or more p.a. □ Life Member & Governor £50 or more □ (Or) I enclose a donation of £.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Institution _____



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AIR FRANCE

DRINK-DRIVE CAMPAIGN DEFENDED

By JOHN LANGLEY Motoring Correspondent

LAUNCHING the Government's £1,150,000 Christmas publicity drive against drink and driving yesterday, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Transport Minister defended the campaign against criticism that it appears to endorse limited drinking.

The campaign is aimed specifically at the youngest drivers and motorcyclists, with the message "STAY LOW OR YOU MAY LIVE TO REGRET IT."

Chief Inspector Alex Leitch of Grampian Police has said his force felt the campaign was "almost inviting people to take some drink."

Strathclyde, Fife, Lothian and Borders, and Tayside police have said they will not use the posters and pamphlets.

Mr Derek Rutherford, director of the Institute of Alcohol Studies, an educational charity, said that if the campaign had any effect at all, it was more likely to increase than reduce road accidents.

Mrs Chalker said: "Of course, the only safe message is zero drinking if you are driving. But we are trying to be realistic."

"We are not saying prohibition, that is not the law. What we are doing is trying to educate people to think about what they are doing."

"You can't preach"

"You have got to be realistic in educating people away from drinking and driving. To say 'Leave the car at home to everybody is as unrealistic as asking everybody not to drink anything."

"The message has got to be believable. You can't preach at young people or be authoritarian about this."

Rejecting complaints that the campaign was "not strong enough," Mrs Chalker said: "I still shudder when I look at the posters."

The poster campaign concentrates on three youngsters: Steve's Saturday on the terrace shows a young man crippled and sitting in a wheelchair on the steps of a nursing home.

Christmas for Carol shows a young girl severely injured in hospital attached to a life support machine.

Too much punch for Judy shows another young girl with a disfigured face and a tube in her throat.

Red triangle

A red triangle enclosing a hand over a glass of drink accompanies the "Stay Low" phrase in TV films and posters. According to the Transport Department, this is a colloquial phrase already in widespread use.

"Staying Low" indicates an intention to consume limited amounts of alcohol.

Mrs Chalker said that taking any alcohol was likely to impair driving but the real problem was not with people who had one or two drinks and "stayed low," but with heavier drinking.

Out of 77,960 drivers convicted last year for driving with alcohol levels above the 80 milligram legal limit, more than half — 45,355 — had levels in excess of 150 milligrams.

Mrs Chalker pointed out that it was still an offence to drive while impaired through alcohol, even at below 80 milligrams.

Inexperience on the road and inexperience of alcohol was a lethal combination, and that was why the campaign was concentrating on the 16-19 year age group.

"Profoundly disturbing"

While it was difficult to measure the effectiveness of the previous campaigns, the incidence of drinking and driving had at least remained fairly steady and might even have dropped slightly although both the national consumption of alcohol and motor traffic had been increasing.

But it was "profoundly disturbing" that nearly one in three drivers killed, including nearly two out of three killed at night, had blood alcohol levels above the legal limit.

Mr Roger Birch, chief constable of Sussex and chairman of the traffic committee of the

Association of Chief Police Officers, sitting beside Mrs Chalker yesterday, defended the campaign as "a very interesting new approach."

He particularly liked the idea of targeting it on the younger age group. Asked if the police would have problems in enforcing the drink driving laws this Christmas because so many policemen were involved in the miners' strike, he said some forces were very hard pressed.

But he was sure that traffic departments throughout the country would still be giving great emphasis to the drink-driving campaign. It would not involve a large extra number of car patrols.

Mr Birch has already given warning that from Monday Dec 17 roadside spot checks will be carried out on the condition of cars in Sussex and a sharper look out kept for drunken drivers. He has invited licences to display anti-drink and driving posters in their pubs.

JP's great service

Magistrates at Grays, Essex, who last year jailed eight drivers convicted of first time drinking offences have said their approach this Christmas will be the same.

Asked about this yesterday Mrs Chalker replied: "I think I would say they have performed great service to the nation by warning at a very early stage just how serious an offence this is."

A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said they were happy with the campaign and the message Mrs Chalker was putting across. "You can't ignore the fact that some people just won't listen when they are told they must not drink anything."

Dr John Havard, secretary of the British Medical Association said those used to drinking should follow the BMA's "rule of three" advice to stay within the law.

"It says that if a driver must drink alcohol it should be limited to three single measures of distilled spirits, or three half-pints of ordinary English beer."

'PRIVATE EYE' SPY CHARGES COMPROMISE

A plea by eight Servicemen facing spy charges to have Mr Richard Ingram, editor of PRIVATE EYE, jailed for contempt of court ended to a compromise at the High Court yesterday.

Lord Justice Watkins agreed to an undertaking by Mr Ingram that the satirical magazine would not again refer to the forthcoming Old Bailey trial involving the Servicemen until it is concluded.

The five airmen and three soldiers had claimed that the article was "highly damaging" and "wickedly prejudicial" to their trial, due to begin in April.

MURDERER MAY APPEAL

Lawyers acting for David Carriv, 18, who was sentenced to life in custody for life at the Old Bailey on Tuesday for the double murder of sweethearts Robert Vaughan and Michelle Sadler, were unable to cough him last night if he would be appealing against the sentence.

Carriv, of Linsey Street, Rotherhithe, appeared stunned by the sentence. He had admitted killing the two young people at night, had blood alcohol levels above the legal limit.

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Mrs Lynda Chalker, Transport Minister, claiming her hand over a symbolic beer glass in front of a warning poster when she launched her Christmas campaign against drinking and driving yesterday.

HELL'S ANGELS JAILED

SENTENCES of up to eight years were imposed yesterday on men convicted of taking part in a pitched battle at a Hell's Angels party which left two dead.

Three members of the motorcycle group, the Road Rats, and three members of the rival Satan Slaves were jailed for riot at the end of the trial at Winchester Crown Court.

The battle began after a woman was stalked and sexually abused at an anniversary party of the Hell's Angels, the court was told.

Stab wounds

The fight began in a marquee at Cookham, Berkshire, and then spread to a cottage in the grounds. Two men died from stab wounds and others were seriously injured. Police later found a vast array of weapons.

The heaviest sentence was on John Connolly, 51, a Road Rat, who was jailed for a total of eight years for affray and riot.

Mr Justice Shapton said he had been a "prime mover and leading light" in last September's battle.

Mr Justice Sheldon said he had not seen the slightest sign of genuine regret or acknowledgement "of the evil that such behaviour involves."

Other Road Rats sentenced were: Michael Nicol, 30, of Sodenham, who received five years for riot; Craig Stewart, 23, of Weybridge, who received four years for affray and riot.

Members of Satan's Slaves who were sentenced were: Neil Crustace, 28, and Simon Willis, 28, both of Exeter, who received five years each for riot and one year each for carrying an offensive weapon to riot consecutively. Also jailed for five years for riot was Grimshaw's brother, Paul, 33, also from Exeter.

Deane Rawson, 31, of Bradford, received two years for carrying an offensive weapon and two years for possessing a firearm so run consecutively. Brian Harper, 22, of Biogler, Yorks, was jailed for three years for possessing a firearm.

Steven Pittam, 30, of Southport, were both jailed for two years for carrying an offensive weapon to riot consecutively. Julian Hux, 26, and John Martin, 25, both of Shipley, Yorks, were given 12-month conditional discharges for possessing firearms.

MARQUESS DIVORCE

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Chinese girl pleads to stay in her adopted Cornwall

A CHINESE girl named Orchid pleaded yesterday to let her put down her roots permanently in Cornwall — even though she has not legal right to stay in Britain.

Jenny Fu, an accounting technician, has lived for nine years in Camborne. She arrived from Hongkong as a student in 1975, and stayed on after setting a job with a firm of accountants.

Her visa was renewed periodically, but the Home Office eventually ordered her to leave.

At a Southampton immigration appeal hearing yesterday, Mr LARRY GRANT, representing her, said that although under the immigration laws the appeal could not succeed, he hoped the exceptional nature of the case would bring a recommendation to the Home Secretary to let her stay.

Miss Fu, 27, of Wellington Road, Camborne — whose

chinese name Saulan means Orchid — told the court she had only been back to Hongkong once in the past nine years on holiday.

"While I was there I felt like a tourist," she said.

Apart from working and attending evening classes in Camborne, she became a voluntary teacher for the Chinese community in Cornwall teaching Chinese to the children so they could communicate with their parents, most of whom speak little English.

Regular churchgoer

She has become a Christian and a regular churchgoer, joined the St John Ambulance, and raised money for the Rotary Club.

"I am part of the community in Cornwall," she said. "It is my home."

Asked by Mr NORMAN

FRANCIS, representing the Home Office, if she has a family in Hongkong, she said:

"I write to my parents every week, but we are not close. I spent the first four years of my life with a child-minder because my parents worked."

"I have dedicated my life to helping others. I want to help people, especially handicapped people. I want to make them happy. If I went back to Hongkong, charity work would be difficult. They have a different outlook to helping others there," she added.

At the hearing a member of the St John Ambulance, a preacher from her church and a Rotary member all gave evidence on her behalf. Some 2,000 people have signed a petition on her behalf.

Miss Fu will now have to wait at least a week for the tribunal's decision.



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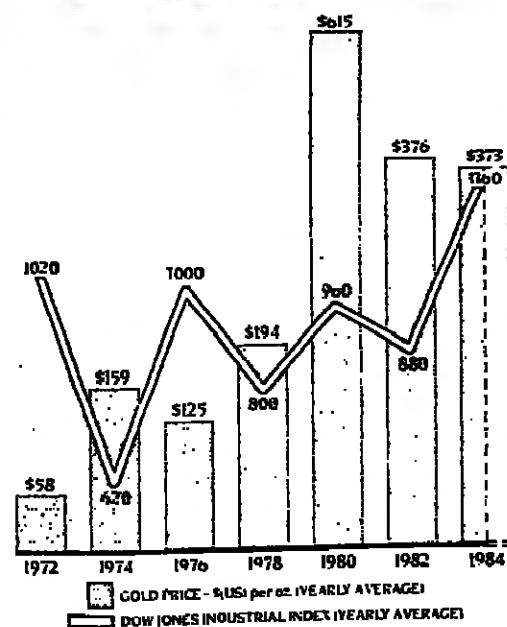
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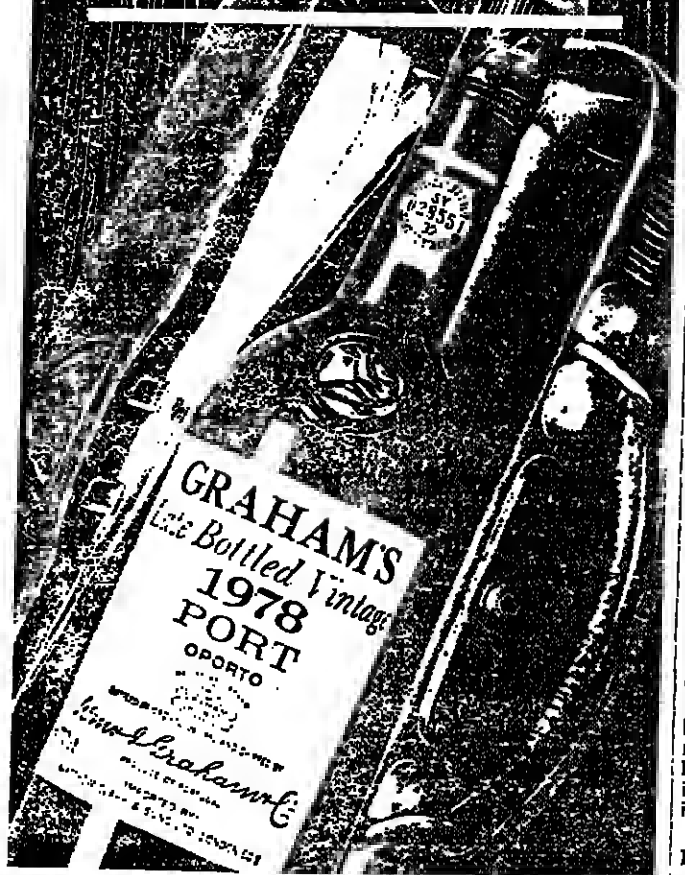
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HUSSEIN INITIATES DRIVE TO BREAK MID-EAST IMPASSE

By JOHN BULLOCH Diplomatic Staff

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan formally launched in London yesterday what he called a "determined diplomatic drive" to break the Middle East stalemate.

Speaking at the Royal United Services Institute, the king said he was engaged in an earnest attempt, with his country's Palestinian and Arab partners, to breathe life into the moribund peace process.

"Our experience has shown Israeli intransigence is threatening the stability of the area as well as its economic progress," he said. Israel had occupied Arab territories for 17 years.

"The onslaught of its occupation policy has undermined the foundations of peace negotiations set out in United Nations resolutions and has eroded the credibility of the United States as a peace mediator," the king said.

By declaring himself so openly in London yesterday the king was firmly committing his personal prestige and the influence of his country to his new peace initiative.

Diplomats felt that he would not have done so without some support since first taking steps.

Pivot of alignment

King Hussein has already shown himself to be the pivot of the new Middle East alignment. He is the closest ally of Iraq, which has just resumed relations with the United States after a 17-year break.

He also took the bold step of being the first to renew diplomatic ties with Egypt severed by an Arab summit conference in 1978 to "punish" Egypt for its peace treaty with Israel.

Most daring of all, King Hussein agreed to allow his capital, Amman, to be the scene of the Palestine National Council meeting in the face of direct threats from Syria, which supports the Palestinian factions opposed to Yasser Arafat, the

Palestine Liberation Organisation leader.

At the Palestine Council the king called on the PLO to join him in his quest for peace. He proposed an international conference, and wooed the Palestinians with the suggestion that they would have to full parties to such a meeting.

In the next breath he alienated them by saying any talks would have to be on the basis of UN Resolution 242, which offers Israel security and peace in return for giving up occupied Arab territory.

The resolution refers to the Palestinians only as "refugees". It gives them no right of self-determination.

In London yesterday King Hussein renewed his commitment to Resolution 242, and spelled out his offer to Israel: "Total peace for total withdrawal."

If there were no response, he said, the outlook for the Middle East would be bleak, and outside powers would be drawn in.

"Both Iran and Israel see the break-up of the present territorial states of the Arab world as a prerequisite for the assertion of their own power over the whole region," he added.

The king was particularly concerned at the situation in the West Bank, lost to his country in 1967. Creeping annexation of the occupied territories, unless halted, would create an "explosive situation."

Mr Rabin, Israeli Defence Minister, arrived in London yesterday and is to give a lecture today. Asked if he planned to meet the Israeli Minister, King Hussein said carefully he had not come to London to meet Mr Rabin.

Peres 'ready to meet King in London'

By MICHAEL FIELD in Paris

MR PERES, Prime Minister of Israel, is prepared to meet King Hussein of Jordan while both are in London next week.

Sources close to the Israeli delegation in France during Mr Peres's official visit there said that he made no prior conditions for such a meeting.

It could be public or in secret, and Israel was prepared to take steps to improve living conditions of the West Bank's Palestinian population.

These include industrialisation, the opening of an Arab bank and an Arab hospital, and nomination of Arab mayors in localities under direct Israeli administration. Censorship would be reduced.

'Practical agreement'

There was word from the Israeli Prime Minister's entourage, too, that a "practical agreement" was in sight with Egypt about Taba, an Israeli enclave in Sinai claimed by Egypt.

Settlement of the Taba question and an Israeli withdrawal in south Lebanon are the prior conditions made by President Mubarak of Egypt for a meeting with Mr Peres.

Mr Peres, who is in Paris until tomorrow, has lunched with President Mitterand, and the French President is to dine tonight at the Israeli Embassy in Paris—a unique Franco-Israeli occasion.

Israel is reported to be interested in buying a nuclear power station from France, and its specialists have visited the installations of "Framatome", the French manufacturers of atomic plant.

Elysee palace sources said last night that France was looking for "a new stage leading to steps towards realistic peace" in the Middle East.

SKI SNOW RECEDES

By Our

Berne Correspondent
Snow suitable for skiing in the Swiss Alps has receded to nearly 8,000 ft in current warm weather. Only tracks above that altitude are open.

KEY EEC JOBS FOR BRITAIN

By ALAN OSBORN
Common Market Correspondent
in Brussels

BRITAIN has secured the important post of responsibility for the internal market in the division of jobs between the new EEC Commissioners. It was reported yesterday.

The new Commission of 14 members takes office on Jan. 1, 1986.

It looks as if Lord Cockfield, the new Senior British Commissioner, will take charge of the internal market, a job that Britain has sought and which promises to be one of the most influential in Brussels over the next few years.

Lord Cockfield will have responsibility for moves to reduce internal trade barriers between the EEC member States and to shape the Community as an effective fighting force in world markets against the United States and Japan.

The British government has long criticised the barriers to trade among the ten member States. It has called for a swift reduction of barrier formalities and a prompt speeding up of trade between the members in an effort to promote the EEC as an effective world trade entity.

The second British Commissioner, Mr Stanley Clinton Davies, is expected to be given responsibility for transport and the environment.

'Below par'

Commentation on the British Commission appointments yesterday by Mr Steel, Liberal leader, said he wanted to "apologise to our friends in the Community for the appointment of the two Commissioners from Britain who are both redundant political nonentities."

Mr Steel said that "these below par appointments" were part of the Prime Minister's low level of commitment to the Community.

The provisional shrouding of jobs in the new Commission does not give Britain, on the face of it, a major say in the affairs of the Community.

The major jobs, on paper, go to France, Germany and Holland. It appears that the Dutch Commissioner, Mr Andriessen, will take over agriculture.

However the shape of the new Commission and its responsibility could be illusory. It is expected that the main preoccupations of the Commission in the next few years will be concerned with the internal market and it is likely that Lord Cockfield will be among the most prominent members in asserting the Commission's role in negotiations ahead.

'LET BRITAIN AND U.S. QUIT UNESCO'

The Soviet Union yesterday accused the United States and Britain of "concerted blackmail" at UNESCO and said they were trying to bring about "crisis and deadlock" within the Paris-based organisation.

The United States announced last Dec. that it was withdrawing from UNESCO at the end of 1984 unless there were major changes in its operations.

Mr Yuri Khilkevich, the Soviet Ambassador, said several times during a Press conference in Paris that the United States and Britain should be regarded as "outsiders." If they wanted to leave UNESCO, "let them do so," he said.—A.P.

MULDOON CALLS ALL BLACK A TRAITOR

By Our Auckland Correspondent

Sir Robert Muldoon, the former New Zealand Prime Minister, was ordered out of Parliament's debating chamber yesterday, after he claimed that a former All Black, Mr Chris Laidlaw, was a traitor.

Mr Laidlaw, a former Commonwealth Secretariat employee in London, is an adviser on Africa and Commonwealth affairs to the New Zealand Labour government of Mr David Lange.

Sir Robert told Parliament that it was a waste of money having Mr Laidlaw advise on African matters after Mr Laidlaw had toured South Africa with the All Blacks, then kicked his mates in the Rugby Union "by criticising South Africa."

WATER ON AGAIN FOR BOKASSA

By Our Staff Correspondent in Paris

Former "Emperor" Bokassa of Central Africa will not have to fulfil his threat of turning up at the Elysee Palace with nine of his children to demand his return home.

The water supply at his chateau west of Paris was turned on again yesterday after it was cut on Wednesday. But he had not paid the rates. But he still wants to return to his native country.

TRIAL REOPENS OF DISSIDENTS

By Our Belgrade Correspondent

The trial of six Yugoslav dissidents charged with plotting to overthrow the regime, which opened on Nov. 5, was resumed in Belgrade yesterday after an interruption of 20 days because the prosecutor requested an enlargement of the indictment.

Regional Development Policy Statement West Midlands Intermediate Area.

Intermediate Area Status.

1.1 The recent announcement by Her Majesty's Government of an Intermediate Area (IA) in the West Midlands has significant benefits for the New Town of Telford.

1.2 The new scheme will offer selective financial assistance to qualifying projects that create new jobs or safeguard existing ones.

Extension of benefits to the Service Businesses.

1.3 Service industries — banks, insurance, laboratories and computer services amongst others — will now be eligible, joining most manufacturing processes which are already included.

Additional financial assistance.

1.4 Other benefits available to qualifying projects within the IA include:
(a) Training grants for new personnel.
(b) Access to loans from the European Investment Bank, as well as exchange risk grants and related benefits.

The Telford Enterprise Zone.

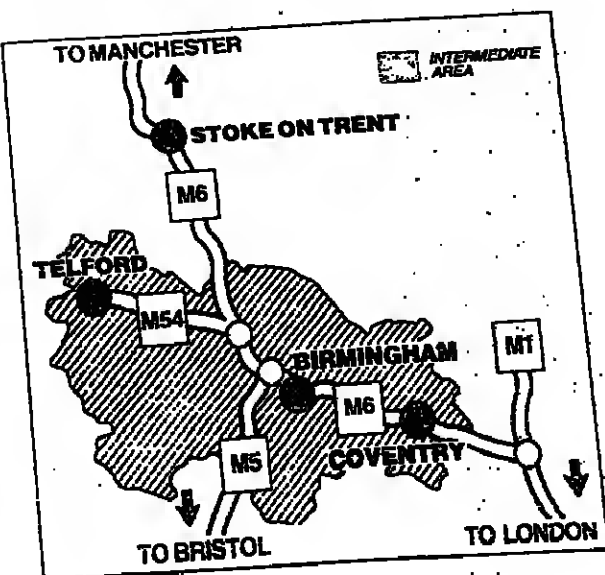
1.5 The benefits of the Enterprise Zone within Telford (i.e. 100% capital allowances, and no rates payable until 1994) are available in addition to the new selective financial assistance.

Existing benefits.

1.6 Telford has a wide variety of readily available floorspace. And it is on Britain's main motorway network: the new M54 puts the M6 within 20 minutes driving time, while Birmingham is about half an hour away.

1.7 In addition to direct financial benefits, Telford offers an attractive, well-developed environment.

1.8 The Telford Development Corporation offers businesses a high level of back-up and expertise, together with extremely competitive financial packages. For details, call the Commercial or Industrial Director now on 0952 613131.



Reagan invites Tutu for apartheid talks

By FRANK TAYLOR in Washington

PRESIDENT REAGAN, faced with growing Republican party revolt over policy towards South Africa, will hold a meeting at the White House today with Bishop Desmond Tutu, the black South African clergyman.

White House officials said that the encounter would show that Washington feels that South Africa's apartheid policy "must yield to peaceful change."

It will be the first meeting between Mr Reagan and a black South African opponent of apartheid.

Bishop Tutu received a rousing welcome on Tuesday when he addressed the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Sub-committee and denounced Mr Reagan's policies towards South Africa as "immoral, evil and totally un-Christian."

After the speech Bishop Tutu said he would like to meet either Mr Reagan or Mr Schultz, Secretary of State, to discuss the growing violence in South Africa.

Support for sanctions

Mr Reagan apparently felt obliged to agree to the meeting after 65 Republican members of Congress, including some of the most vocal conservatives, warned that they would support diplomatic and economic sanctions against South Africa unless Pretoria took immediate steps to change its racial policy.

In a letter to the South African Embassy, the Republicans said that America's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa merited support only as long as "real steps towards complete equality for all South Africans" were being taken.

"We are looking for an immediate end to the violence in South Africa accompanied by a demonstrated sense of urgency about ending apartheid," the letter said.

Unless such action was taken, the group would recommend diplomatic and economic sanctions.

The letter was delivered as more than 100 people demonstrated outside the embassy. In the past two weeks, 25 people, including nine members of Congress, have been arrested for refusing to leave the embassy grounds.

Most have been released after a brief detention at police headquarters.

Most of the Republicans who signed the letter have been regarded as supporters of Reagan policies and their stand could signal a significant movement towards a more aggressive posture towards South Africa on Capitol Hill.

American officials describe their "constructive engagement" policy as one under which anti-South African sanctions are discouraged while changes in racial policies are sought through diplomatic channels.

Bishop Tutu is to receive the Nobel Peace Prize next week.

BHOPAL TAKES HARD LINE WITH UNION CARBIDE

By BALRAM TANDON in New Delhi

THE Chief Minister and Government of Madhya Pradesh state showed signs of a tough stand in their talks and negotiations with Warren Anderson, chairman, and other officials of Union Carbide, as the death toll in Monday's gas tragedy in Bhopal mounted to more than 2,000.

"I will tell them what has to be told," Mr Arjun Singh, the Chief Minister, said as the first groups of senior American technicians and officials flew to the stricken area yesterday.

"We are not going to beg for anything," he went on. The state government was seeking legal advice on the liabilities of the company and the issue of compensation to the victims, the other inhabitants of Bhopal and the government.

Heavily armed police threw a cordon round the Union Carbide plant and senior government officials flew out from New Delhi seized all log books and documents of the factory.

Officials of the factory have been banned by the police from leaving Bhopal and company officials who have flown from the United States were barred from going round the plant until permission had been received from the government and detectives of the Central Bureau of Investigations in New Delhi.

Compensation pledge
Police have also put a guard on Shakeel Ahmed, the Union Carbide employee who was on duty in the vital instrument room of the plant when the disaster occurred, and who alone knows exactly what happened before the gas leaked early on Monday morning.

Shakeel Ahmed was taken seriously ill, and is said to be "progressing" in the intensive care unit in Bhopal hospital.

Mr Anderson, who flew to India for talks with the Government and to inspect the Bhopal plant, had prolonged meetings with Mr Keshav Mahendra, chairman of Union Carbide's Indian units, in Bombay.

Mr Anderson has already made a statement assuring the Indian Government that the company will compensate all victims of the gas leakage.

American officials who have gone to Bhopal from the United States include the designer of plant and a former works manager there.

"We have naturally been

shaken by what has happened," they said, and noted that many of those who had died or been affected were known to them. "We worked together, lived together. What has happened makes us so sad."

The Madhya Pradesh Government has not given any authenticated death toll, but officials said they were not contradicting the figure of 2,000 given by unofficial sources.

They confirmed that many of those who fled the town could have died.

DISASTER-PRONE Third World hazard

OUR SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT writes: Third World countries are much more prone to disastrous accidents than industrialised ones, because they are socially ill-equipped to deal with emergencies, an expert said yesterday.

Mr Lee Talbot, a visiting fellow at the World Resources Institute in Washington, said this was because industrial plants in such countries often became surrounded by slums and shanty towns filled with migrants from the countryside in a situation that would not be tolerated in an industrialised state.

"The level of technical expertise among workers in developing countries is nowhere near as good as in developed ones," he added, pointing both to the Indian disaster and to last month's oil fire in Mexico which killed at least 544 people.

Mr Talbot's remarks followed the revelation by the managing director of Union Carbide India, Mr V. P. Gokhale, that two workers responsible for controlling the leaks of gas at Bhopal ran away when it occurred.

"If they had not run away, nobody would have died," said a police spokesman. The two workers were being sought by police.



Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Indian Prime Minister, visiting victims of the Bhopal gas leak disaster.

438 children flee from U.S. poison spillage

By IAN BALL in New York

THREE weeks before the disaster at Bhopal, a spill of the same highly toxic chemical, methyl isocyanate, forced the evacuation of an elementary school at Middleport, New York, it was disclosed yesterday.

Some 30 children and a teacher suffered eye irritation, but apparently no lasting effects. Officials said the accident might have resulted in greater injury had not the school and the chemical company involved, FMC Corpora-

tion, worked out emergency procedures for such situations. Some 30 gallons of methyl isocyanate were involved in the spill at the FMC plant, which uses the chemical to make pesticides. The accident reportedly occurred when a maintenance crew installed a pump which failed when it was first tested.

The spill turned quickly to gas which drifted in the direction of the school, 500 yards away.

As children began complaining of painful eyes, all vents leading to the outside were turned off and the 438 pupils

were taken out of the classrooms to assemble for evacuation by school buses.

Nurses from the company hurried to the school to begin washing the eyes of affected pupils and teachers. FMC's safety experts also arrived and although they determined that the contamination was not serious, they recommended that the building be evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Within 25 minutes, all the pupils and 40 teachers had been moved out of the area in school buses.

At the plant a team with respirator masks cleaned up the

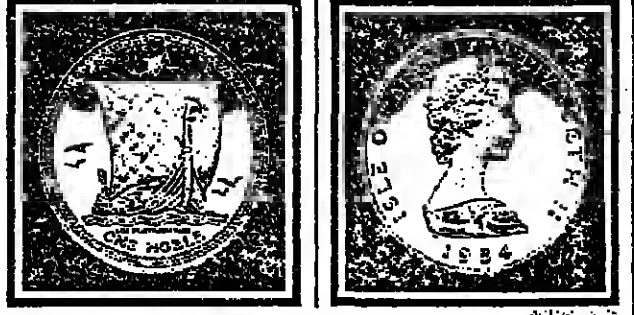
spill. The plant has been handling methyl isocyanate for 15 years and a spokesman claimed this was the first mishap there had been with the gas.

FMC stores the chemical underground in stainless steel cylinders inside a concrete vault which is constantly monitored. The material is refrigerated to 32°F to retard vaporisation. If any escapes, it is vented into the plant's incinerator.

GERMAN INFLATION

West Germany's annual inflation rate was 2.1 per cent. in November, the same as in October.

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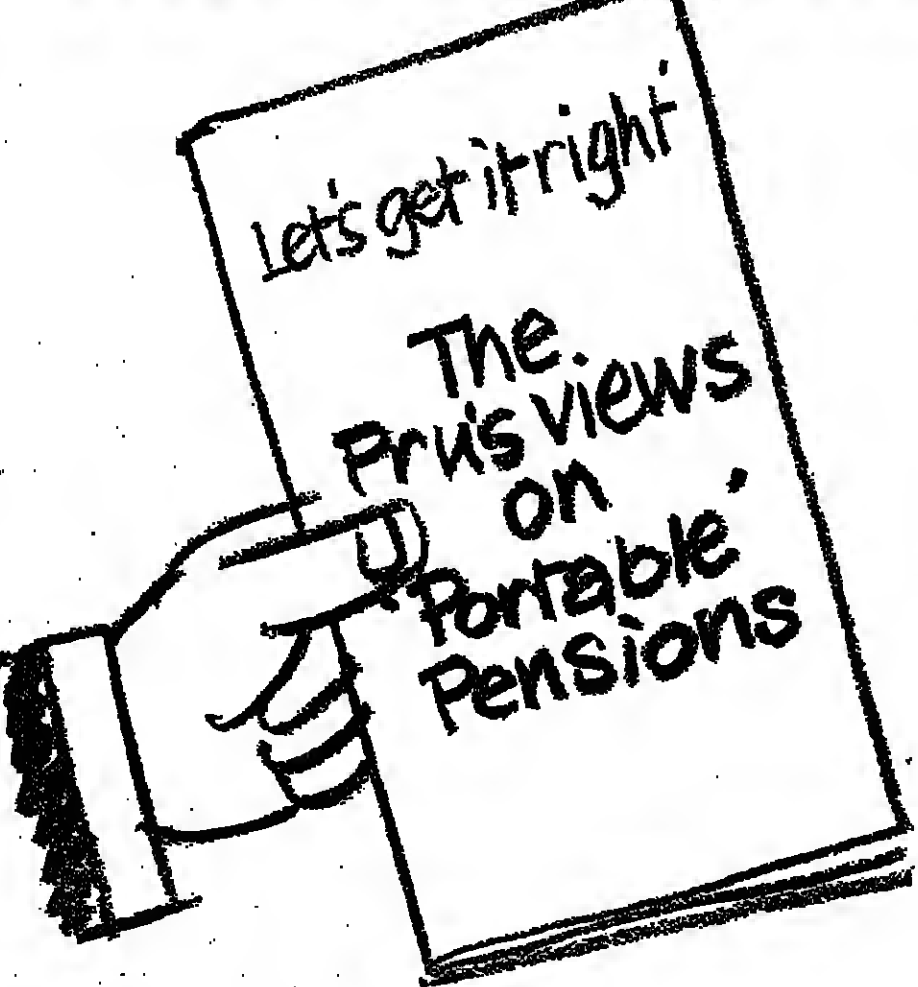
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Shoot-on-sight orders for Colombo curfew

By DAVID GRAVES in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka

TAMIL separatists had killed 17 more civilians in the north of Sri Lanka, bringing the death toll from mounting violence over the past week to more than 200, Government officials said yesterday.

As tension increased the Government imposed a five-hour curfew in Colombo from 11 p.m. and issued shoot-on-sight orders to deal with curfew breakers.

The latest killings were at Cheddikulam, 50 miles from the north-western port of Mannar, where more than 80 Tamils were allegedly massacred by the Army after a land-mine ambush on Tuesday.

Foreign correspondents attempting to reach Mannar yesterday from the ancient city of Anuradhapura, 90 miles away, to investigate the reports could not persuade local drivers to take them to the area.

Fear of attacks
Hardly any traffic was moving to the port because of fear of further rebel attacks and land-mine ambushes.

News of the latest mass killing was given by Mr Chandura Bandara, District Minister in Anuradhapura, as the Government continued to deny any atrocity at Mannar, which allegedly happened after a soldier was killed.

He said that 16 Sinhalese passengers and a Muslim conductor were burned alive after their state-owned Ceylon Transport bus from Mannar was hijacked on Wednesday by armed rebels, who ordered off all Tamils before setting the vehicle on fire.

The Minister said: "Our people are living under increasing pressure. They are being bottled it up. If the Sinhalese aim is to provoke a backlash, then it is becoming more and more difficult to prevent it."

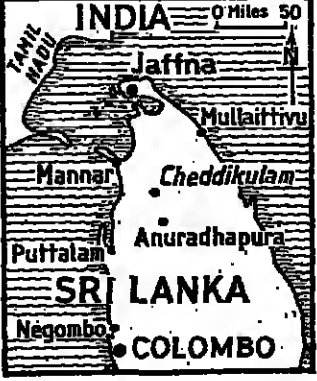
Tamil rebels fighting for a separate state of Eelam, in the north and east of the island, have stepped up their campaign, renewing tension with the Sinhalese, who are 70 per cent. of the 15 million population.

Signs of backlash

The Government admitted yesterday for the first time that there were signs of a backlash against Tamils living in the south of Sri Lanka. It said that more than 40 Sinhalese fishermen were burned in Puttalam and Negombo on Tuesday.

In the 2,200-square-mile Anuradhapura district so far free of the violence crippling the neighbouring northern province, Mr Bandara said the 200,000 population had been placed on a "close-to-war footing."

Villagers had seen at least six groups of 10 to 15 men, wearing blue military-style uniforms, moving through heavy jungle in



the area over the last two days, he said.

The District Minister, speaking in the heavily fortified Government headquarters in Anuradhapura, said the authorities expected attacks to be made on vital installations in an attempt to divert security forces from the north.

As a result 180 vigilante committees were being formed throughout the district, the largest in the island, to patrol villages and report rebel movements.

Hostages killed

The Government says that its agent in Jaffna, Mr M. Panchalingam, was stopped on his way to work yesterday by two armed men, who hijacked his car and driver.

The Government's leading official in the troubled Jaffna peninsula was unharmful, but he was made to walk to his office.

There was no further word on the fate of nine hostages said by the Government to have been kidnapped by one of the Tamil rebel groups, although the authorities repeated it was believed they had been killed.

Government officials also announced that a fishing trawler with Indian markings was sunk by Sri Lankan naval patrols when it entered the island's territorial waters. Four people on board were arrested.

APARTHEID MOVE

BY NEW ZEALAND

By Our Auckland Correspondent
South African sportsmen must now declare they do not represent their country if they are to play in New Zealand.

Mr David Lange, the Labour Prime Minister, said yesterday this was a tougher stance than that of any other Commonwealth country, but that the Government recognised there might be sportspeople holding South African passports who should not be prohibited as individuals.

ETHIOPIA SEEKS BETTER LINKS WITH U.S. WHILE KEEPING SOVIET TIES

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

A HOPE of better relations between the United States and Marxist Ethiopia during President Reagan's second term of office was voiced by Mr Goshu Wolde, Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, in an interview with THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in Addis Ababa.

"There should be no reason why the United States should have excellent relations with a Communist giant like China and not have good relations with a fledgling and least-developed country like Ethiopia," he said.

Ethiopia now had excellent relations with Europe and relations with Britain had improved considerably, particularly since the visit of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Office Minister of State, in July, he said.

"Our only problem is with the United States: they categorise the world, as Mr Reagan does, into good and evil and I think they put us somewhere in the evil," he said, laughing. "I don't know why they do that. We are not evil. We want better relations with all countries, the Americans also."

The Minister said Ethiopia had tried to impress on the Reagan Administration that there was no logical reason for Washington's negative attitude towards Addis Ababa since the 1974 revolution that overthrew the pro-Western Emperor Haile Selassie.

The Reagan Administration

are subservient to Soviet foreign policy. We do not belong to the Warsaw Pact, nor to any camp or sphere.

"Ethiopia has been fiercely independent for thousands of years and we have an independent foreign policy. We are non-aligned. Our policy is that we are friends to everybody and have malice towards none."

"We want to do business on equally mutually beneficial terms with all countries of different social and economic policies, America, Europe and so on."

Mr Goshu said Ethiopia appreciated the massive response of the American people to the Ethiopian tragedy and hoped the opportunity for better relations created by the tragedy would continue to exert a positive influence.

But better relations with Washington would not mean any weakening of ties between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, he stressed.

Weapons supply

"This is quite clear as far as we are concerned. Our relationship with the Soviets and East European countries will develop while, at the same time, we extend the hand of friendship and fraternity to all countries in Western Europe and to America."

Mr Goshu acknowledged that the Soviet response to the Ethiopian famine emergency had not been on the same scale as that from the United States but said Soviet aid had to be looked at, not just in the present sense, but over the whole period since 1974.

Ethiopia had a debt of gratitude to the Soviet Union for supplying it with weapons that enabled it to repel a Somali invasion in 1977, and for 10 years' assistance from Russia, Cuba and the Eastern bloc with

development projects including factories, hydro-electric dams, oil exploration in Southern Ethiopia, and agricultural rehabilitation.

Mr Goshu said Ethiopia was now urgently seeking assistance from the whole world community including Europe and the United States for agricultural rehabilitation, including the resettlement of 500,000 people in family groups from drought-stricken parts of North Ethiopia to more fertile regions.

The resettlement was essential because the devastated soil of the drought areas, cultivated for 3,000 years since the ancient Ethiopian kingdoms, could no longer support human or animal life, he said.

"The alternative to moving people was to leave them to a grim future of no rain and starvation."

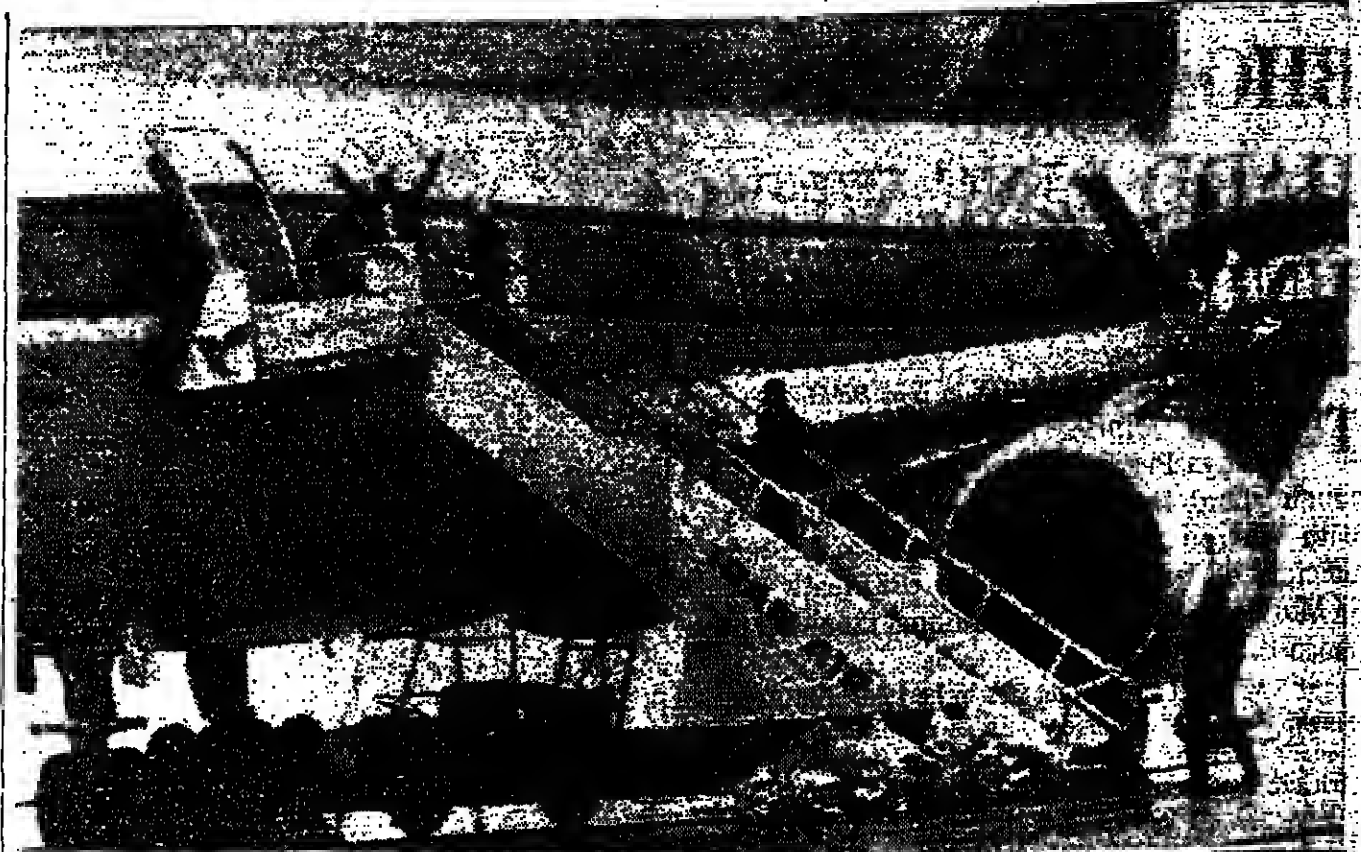
That, of course, is something that no fiercely proud country like Ethiopia was prepared to do. "We can't go to every European capital year after year and beg for emergency assistance. We can do it once, perhaps—ever do it twice, but the fourth and fifth times people will get fed up."

"This is why we must become self-sufficient in the production of food. Food self-sufficiency is the cornerstone of our 10-year agricultural and development programme."

The Foreign Minister said Western Governments were showing reluctance to support the resettlement programme because of ignorance of the facts.

Mr Goshu accused the United States of exploiting an unsettled dispute over American property worth \$30 million in 1924 million nationalities in Ethiopia after the 1974 revolution, as a pretext for barring Ethiopia from development aid.

"They are using the com-



Skyjacks searching an Iranian doctor before allowing him on to the Kuwait Airways airliner on the tarmac at Teheran.

RAF men complain of famine aid delays

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

SOME members of the 75-man Royal Air Force detachment in the Ethiopian famine airlift flew back to Britain last night complaining of "hanging about waiting for loads," and "a waste of resources."

Supply hold-ups, which have delayed the number of famine relief flights by two RAF Hercules C-130 transports in the past few days, appeared to have dispirited some of the 20 men returning home after a month in Ethiopia.

"We have been at Addis Ababa airport at 545 every morning ready to go, but this week we have been hanging about three or four hours waiting for loads," said Sgt Derek Barron, 56.

"The stuff is around but there seems to be a lack of co-ordination in getting it together."

Sgt Barron, from Calne, Wiltshire, said the supply hold-ups began after the two Hercules cleared stocks of Canadian wheat at Addis Ababa airport last weekend.

The Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, which provides supplies for the airlift, had since been "struggling for loads," for the aircraft, and famine relief supplies had been turning up in half loads.

He added: "We have been here five weeks, and I'm glad to be going home. I would like to think that what we have been doing is worth while. We have seen only the airfields. We have not seen the feeding."

Hercules grounded

One of the two RAF Hercules engaged in the ferrying of relief supplies was grounded yesterday after developing a mechanical fault which forced it to turn back while flying a load of blankets from Addis Ababa to Makale, in the north of the country.

The other plane made three flights to Makale and Alamata carrying blankets which were flown to Addis Ababa from Britain and Finland on Wednesday in response to urgent appeals on behalf of famine victims camped out in freezing temperatures.

A replacement Hercules was on its way to Addis Ababa from RAF Lyneham, Wilts, yesterday with 20 airmen to replace the men going home and spare parts to repair a hydraulic fault in the grounded Hercules.

The men returning to Britain were making the journey home in the grounded Hercules after the fault had been repaired.

Starving nomads

The continuing hold-up in supplies for the RAF mercy flights coincided with a report yesterday of an acute food crisis at the Matchew relief centre outside Makale.

The big American voluntary agency, Catholic Relief Services, which is providing food for 745,650 famine victims in Ethiopia, said 18,000 families of Afar desert nomads had converged on Matchew in the past few days, 5,000 to 4,000 of them in "a desperate state of starvation."

A spokesman said 2,000 to 3,000 people were arriving at the camp daily, many dropping dead from starvation.

"The situation is just terrible," he said. "And we do not have the food supplies to cope with the immediate needs."

An acute food shortage has been reported this week by the French voluntary agencies Medecins Sans Frontieres at the big Korem relief centre for 30,000 famine victims served by the Alamata airfield to which the RAF has been airlifting high-protein biscuits and other supplies.

A Western diplomat in Addis Ababa said last night: "It seems to be a logistical problem because there is food available. There are between 12,000 and 15,000 tonnes of emergency relief food in the Ethiopian Government's warehouse at Nazareth, near Addis Ababa."

DROUGHT AID PLEA
By Our Geneva Correspondent
An appeal for 128 million Swiss francs (124 million) to aid 1,500,000 drought victims in 14 African countries next year was launched in Geneva by the League of Red Cross Societies yesterday.

FALKLANDS AIRPORT ON TARGET

By Our Port Stanley Correspondent

IF there are any doubts to Britain about the cost and work schedule of the Falklands Mount Pleasant Airport, they do not seem to exist at the sharp end.

"The Laing, Mowlem and Amey Roadstone construction consortium are confident of meeting the April deadline for the arrival of the first wide-bodied jet next year."

"We've had one of the most severe winters here and there have been periods when people thought it would not be ready on time," said the project director, Mr Bill Bloomfield.

"But at the moment we are heading for that date and unless we have exceptionally bad weather I see no reason why we should not meet that date."

Most people at Mount Pleasant seem to share this optimism and are apparently affected by the same drive to see an international airport rise out of the virgin peat bog.

"It's an exciting project to build something as big as this in a place like this," said Mr Wyn Kendrick project manager.

Americans' project

"I don't think that anywhere in the world has there been an airport of this size which has been built so quickly."

With understandable satisfaction, he went on to point out that a similar airport, being built by the Americans on the island of Diego Garcia, is expected to take five years to complete. The main two-mile strip at Mount Pleasant will have been built in 16 months.

The rest will have been achieved with no thanks to the Falklands environment. According to Mr Maurice Channings, regional director for the Property Services Agency in Port Stanley, the only materials which the contractors have been able to glean from the island have been water and quarried rock. "Everything else had to come from the UK."

The "everything else" includes 500 vehicles and pieces of machinery worth £20 million, prefabricated buildings, fuel, food and workers.

So far more than a quarter of a million tons of these supplies have been brought down to the South Atlantic by the four cargo vessels on permanent charter to the consortium.

Peat in plenty

The one thing that they do have in plenty on the site is peat. But that is a serious hindrance rather than a help.

To get to bedrock and commence work on foundations for the runways and buildings, the mechanical diggers have excavated 1.5 million cubic yards of the peat, enough to keep a traditional Falklands kitchen range blazing for 8,000 years.

A year ago only 105 "pioneers" were working on the project but as more accommodation blocks were built, so more men moved in.

At present between 1,700 and 1,800 men are working the site on a 24-hour shift system regardless of the weather. As the April deadline looms the number involved will increase to 2,500.

For a 12-month contract with one month of overtime in Britain, an ordinary labourer can expect to take home £9,000 tax free, with food, accommodation and a 15 per cent bonus for completion of the contract thrown in.

With hundreds of tradesmen, labourers and managerial staff, it adds up to a hefty wage bill but the Property Services Agency, whose job it is to make sure that taxpayers' money is being well spent, is keen to emphasise the cost effectiveness of the airport.

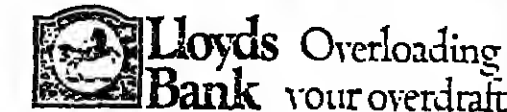
FUEL SHORTAGE HAMPERS AID

By Our Lusaka Correspondent
Transport problems, mainly caused by shortage of diesel fuel have restricted the operation of the World Food Programme office in Lusaka to save about 15,000 people suffering severe malnutrition as a result of consecutive droughts in the past three seasons.

Mr Carlo Volli, Deputy World Food Programme Representative, said the relief programme in Zambia was also being seriously hampered by lack of certain foods which had to be imported from abroad.



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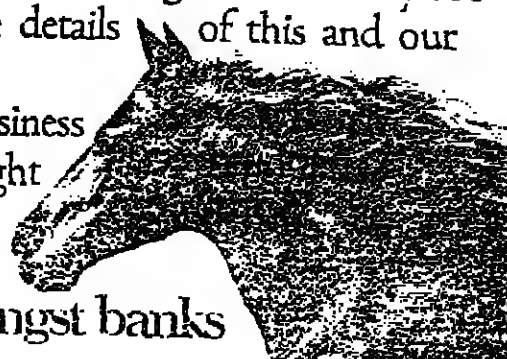
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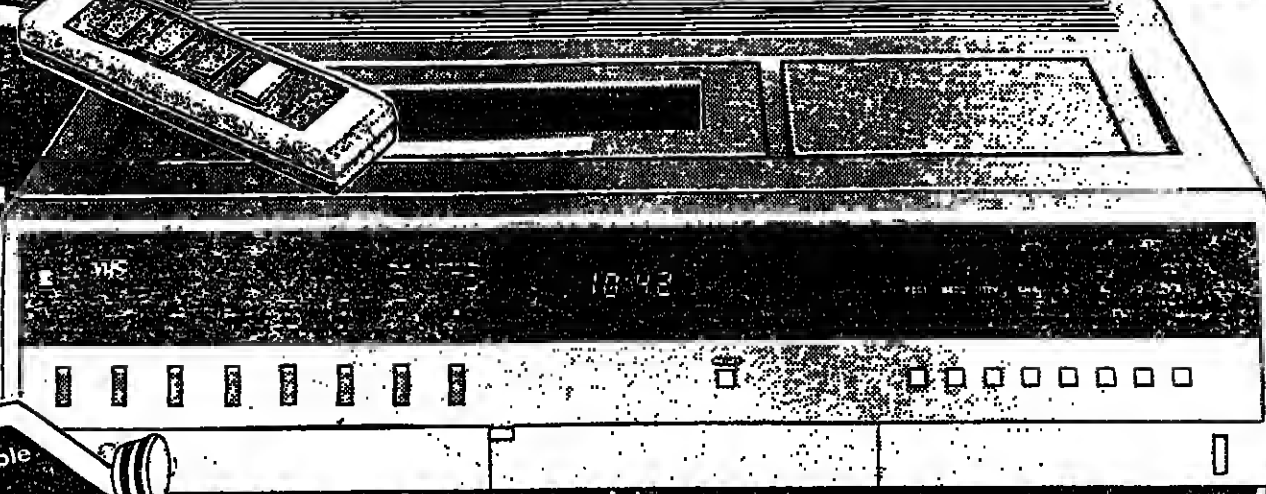
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VHS VIDEO SUPERDEAL SUPERB QUALITY SAISHO

REMOTE CONTROL VHS VIDEO
Saisho has established a strong reputation for superb quality and styling together with top-value features—and this handsome Saisho VHS VR705 Video Recorder proves the point. Just check over what you're getting for Dixons remarkably low Christmas Deal Price of under £350. Remote control of play, forward/reverse, picture search, freeze frame, and stop. Fourteen-day programme timer. Compact modern styling with easy-to-operate soft-touch controls. Now more than ever, with Christmas coming up, you'll be needing to view what you want when you want. So call in now at Dixons and see this superlative high-performance VHS machine demonstrated.

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Guaranteed Unbeatable
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SANYO BETA Video Recorder
Featuring 8-day timer with soft-touch controls. Still frame. Serial facility. Model: VTC150. Dixons List Price £299.99.

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SAISHO VHS Front-loading Video with Infra-red Remote Control
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SHARP This superlative high-tech video recorder is a space-saving front-loader with remote control and seven-day timer. Among its features are one-touch recording, picture search, auto playback and rewind. Model: VC482. Dixons List Price £399.99.

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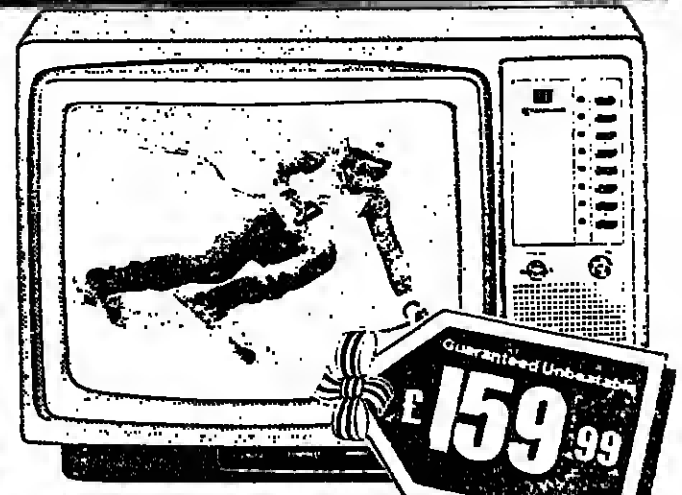
HITACHI VHS
Front-loading model with 14-day timer. Serial facility. Still frame, high-speed picture search, instant record. Model: VT33.

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AKAI VHS
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with **FREE Two-Year Guarantee**
Fabulous picture and sound quality with exceptional reliability. 8 soft-touch channel selectors. Integral carrying handle. Loop aerial. Model: CB330F.

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Brilliant new addition to the Saisho Colour TV Range! At under £250, this sublime 20" set with infra-red remote control gives you fantastic picture quality. Model: CT2000R.

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Light touch channel selectors with LED indicators. Electronic memory tuning. Comes complete with mobile stand with its own video shelf. Model: CT201S.

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Top quality portable colour TV featuring infra-red remote control of channel, volume and standby. Eight pushbutton selectors. Model: CT14R.

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14" HITACHI Portable Colour TV
8 pushbutton channel selectors and illuminated channel indicators. Soft-touch controls. With loop aerial. Model: CPT147.

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Buy this brilliant new design Sharp Microwave Oven—only available at Dixons—and you're invited to attend Sharp's Microwave Cookschool—ABSOLUTELY FREE! Full 1.5 litre inside the oven. Star features include dual stage 60-minute timer, 0.9 cu. ft. easy-clean stainless steel interior, automatic glass turntable, variable power from 10% to full 800 watts. Complete with cookbook. Model: 1328.

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SANYO Microwave
Variable power from 10% to full 600 watts in seven preset stages for precision cooking control. Accurate 30-minute timer. Auto-tiltable. Compact design with 0.6 cu. ft. oven. Model: EM1410.

Dixons List Price £269.99

Guaranteed Unbeatable £159.99

PANASONIC Rotamat
Solve your Christmas cooking problems with this new hi-tech model. Rotamat turntable, sixty-minute two-speed rotary timer complete with automatic shut-off. Capacious 1 cu. ft. oven. Full-colour cookbook included. Model: NE851.

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PANASONIC Genius
As advertised on TV, this superlative new model has automatic defrosting by weight, full freeze-to-table defrosting and cooking, one cu. ft. capacity plus digital clock and variable power from 70 to 600 watts. Complete with cookbook. Model: NE891.

Guaranteed Unbeatable £339.99

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Uncompromising standards of hi-fi performance, attractive space-saving design plus DOLBY Noise Reduction System—at Dixons Unbeatable Christmas Deal Price of under £250.

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● Featuring auto-stop, auto-return record deck ● Front-loading stereo cassette deck ● Powerful LW/MW/FM stereo radio ● Stylish cabinet. Complete with matching speakers. Model: MC606.

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Outstanding Specification and Value! ● Two front-loading stereo record decks ● Precision auto-return record deck ● LW/MW/FM stereo radio ● Tape storage space. ● Full-range hi-fi speakers. Model: MC702.

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SENTRA HI-FI PLUS £70 HOLIDAY SAVING OFFER
● 3-Band stereo radio ● Superb cabinet ● Full-range hi-fi speaker system. Model: 821.

PLUS! Save up to £70 on a Thomas Cook holiday—ask for details!

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INQUIRY ORDERED INTO DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUNG PRISONERS

By T. A. SANDROCK Crime Correspondent

AN urgent inquiry into brutality and drug abuse by older prisoners at Youth Custody Centres has been ordered by the Home Office Prison Department following disclosures of control problems by the Prison Officers' Association.

The association, which described as "an abysmal failure" the custody centres scheme started in May, 1985, to replace Borstals and Young Persons Centres, has asked the Home Office for a "complete rethink" on the current system.

Staff shortages play an important part in the problems of trying to control violence and drug abuse among prisoners.

But staff claim that the mixing of young offenders aged between 15 and 21 without regard to individual circumstances is a major cause of the trouble.

Under the old system each young offender was assessed and sent to a Borstal or Young Persons Centre, which provided a regime suitable for rehabilitation and reform based on the assessment of the offender.

Grading system

Sentences were also "indeterminate" ranging from six months to 24 months.

There was a grading system which provided for earlier release for those who behaved and showed they had reformed.

This made it possible for an offender to be released after serving as little as a quarter of the sentence.

"The incentive to behave was strong and had a steady and effective influence on young offenders," said a Prison Officers' Association representative. "Now with the Youth Custody Centres there is no such grading or incentive."

"The younger, foolish youths serving a few months are mixed in with sophisticated criminals in the older groups."

"Some of these have been found guilty of serious crimes and could be on sentences of up to 10 years. They take control of the weaker and young prisoners through fear with their gangs practising brutality and through 'cocooning' or forcing drug dependence."

He added that more "so-called" enlightened schemes, abolishing or restricting prison disciplinary measures meant

there was "little deterrent" to those who misbehaved.

The Prison Department claims that the mix of offenders under the Youth Custody Centres Act is more suitable because it makes the regime in the establishments more stable, presumably because there is not the quick turnover there was under the old system.

The Prison Officers' Association believes that what it has discovered in the custody centres shows that this is not so, and that is why they are pressing for the rethink.

Calls received yesterday following the association's disclosure showed that parents of youngsters in the centres were seriously concerned about the effect on their children of what was happening.

Typical was a woman whose 18-year-old son is at Finsmore Wood V.C.C., Buckinghamshire, used by the association as an example of serious problems.

"She told me her son was serving six months' imprisonment. When I visited him in November, after he had been there about four weeks, he told me he had lost some of his privileges and gave me a weak excuse which I did not believe."

'He did wrong'

"I asked a senior officer what had happened, and when I insisted on being told the truth, he said my son had tried to smuggle a letter out to get drugs brought in."

"He has never been on drugs. He did wrong and went there for corrective training not to become a drug addict," she said.

The worried mother had raised the matter with the centre, the Home Office and the police but so far had received no satisfactory reply or assurance that anything was being done.



PICTURE: KENNETH MASON

Prince Philip at the controls of Goblin, a pollution control vessel which he took on to the Thames yesterday after naming her at the Isle of Dogs, where she was built at Blackwall Engineering's yard. The purpose-built vessel has special equipment to extract from the sea all forms of pollution such as oil, gunk and rubbish.

£22,859 for tree surgeon hit on head

JAMES LANGLEY, a tree surgeon, who was hit on the head by a tree when a workmate chopped down the wrong one, was awarded £22,859 damages in the High Court yesterday.

The accident, in October 1980, has left him with a loss of sexual desire and forced him to change jobs to become a rat catcher, said Mr Justice Drake, who made the award.

Mr Langley, 32, of North Brooks, Harlow, Essex, was directing traffic while work was being carried out on trees in Manor Road, Old Harlow.

A colleague should have chopped down a 15ft tree which would have fallen short of him, but he chopped down a 50ft tree instead, and it landed on his head causing severe back and head injuries which prevented him continuing in the same job, said the judge.

Mr Langley complained of the drawbacks of his new job and told his daughters Karen, 10, and Jennie, 8, were taunted at school. But the judge said that while pest control officers had a lack of status in the eyes of the public and were seen as no more than rat catchers, they did an important job.

Employers, Harlow Council, who denied liability, were ordered to pay the damages and costs of the action.

SEA ANGLER DIES

An angler died in hospital yesterday after being pulled from the sea by police at Blackpool. He was named as Mr William Ward, 41, of Lonsdale Road, Blackpool.

More prosecution decisions to be taken locally

By TERENCE SHAW Legal Correspondent

PROSECUTION decisions in a far greater range of serious offences would be taken locally under Government plans for the distribution of business in its proposed new national independent prosecution service outlined in a White Paper yesterday.

The service is due to be fully in operation by October, 1986.

Among the category of offences which would normally be dealt with locally under the new service would be multiple rapes, kidnapping and murders which do not give rise to particular evidential difficulties.

At present all these cases have to be reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions by local police prosecution departments.

Independent of police

Under the White Paper proposals published by the Attorney General Sir Michael Havers, C.C., in an attempt to allay fears that the new service would become over-centralised, the DPP and his headquarters staff will continue to be responsible for prosecution decisions in cases of particular importance or difficulty.

In some of these cases the conduct of the prosecution might still be passed back to the Crown Prosecutors who will be in charge of the office of the new prosecution service which will be entirely independent of the police.

The main categories that will still have to be referred to the Director will be large and complex fraud, obscene publications and exhibitions, serious allegations against police and other cases where suggestions of local influence must be avoided such as prosecutions of M.P.s.

14,000 a year

Under the present prosecution system, about 14,000 cases a year are referred to the DPP by police prosecuting solicitors, departments and other prosecutors. It has been estimated that substantially less than a half will have to be referred under the new system.

Of the 14,000 now referred, 8,000 are complaints against the police, and of these 4,000 are motoring cases. Under the new system these motoring cases will no longer have to be referred and will be dealt with locally, unless it is alleged that death has been caused.

Staff of the new service, which will be mostly recruited from existing police prosecution solicitor departments, is expected to total 2,500 of whom 1,500 will be lawyers.

The size of the DPP's headquarters office is expected to remain the same, at about 250.

Distribution of functions between headquarters and local offices of the proposed National Prosecution Service, Stationery Office 41/30.

'RED LIGHT' BAIL FOR WEDDING

Judith Jones, 36, of Greenfield Court, Bristol, arrested on Wednesday night, was released on bail yesterday just hours before her wedding.

She was remanded on bail for a week by Bristol magistrates on condition that she kept away from St Paul's, the city's "red light" district. The wedding went ahead at 2.30.

HOLY SMOKE UPROAR FOR PRIEST CHEF

THE Rev. Peter Miln, parish church curate, professional chef, caterer, lecturer, an 18th century banquet for civic dignitaries in the town hall at Uttoxeter, Staffs, where he was once mayor.

But, when, after spending nearly all day slaving over a hot skillet, he switched on a hot cupboard to keep the food warm for the meal, and the thing blew up because of a leaking gas pipe, another of Mr Miln's many talents manifested itself in the smoking kitchen—mastery of barrack-room invective.

"I was a naval rating for nine years and I've never been spoken to like that, not even by a naval officer," said the curate, Mr Grahame Hunsdon. He was sacked on the spot, and yesterday claimed unfair dismissal at a Birmingham industrial tribunal.

Smoke and fumes

The tribunal heard that Mr Miln was the first professional chef to use the town hall's new £20,000 kitchen.

Mrs BARBARA ROTHWELL, the town clerk, said she found him battling to save the meal after the explosion, submerged in thick black smoke and toxic fumes.

She said Mr Hudson had disobeyed orders by leaving the cleaning fluid inside the hot cupboard.

Mr Hudson, 35, who said it was difficult to cope with his work, even in a 60-hour week, admitted that he had forgotten to remove the cleaning material when he was "bundled out of the kitchen" by Mr Miln, who had arrived an hour earlier than arranged that morning.

Mr Miln did not give evidence but a letter he wrote to the council committee, which finally agreed Mr Hudson's dismissal was put before the tribunal. In it he claimed Mr Hudson had been rude to Mrs Rothwell.

Cool until then

"I therefore addressed him in what might delicately be described as barrack-room language... at that point I fear I lost my temper and told him he was sacked."

"You will appreciate that under the circumstances I had remained, for a chef, remarkably cool up to that point."

The tribunal chairman, Mr JOHN SHANN, pointed out the letter was inaccurate on the law, but added: "How much experience can you expect from one man? Theology, counselling, catering—but not the law."

The banquet, held to raise funds for a memorial to another outspoken Staffordshire resident, Dr Johnson, had successfully gone ahead.

The tribunal reserved its decision.

Bridge-crash captain was 'thunderstruck'

By GUY RAIS

THE captain of the Exocet-carrying frigate Jupiter told a court martial in Portsmouth yesterday that he was "thunderstruck" when he realised his 372ft ship was going to hit London Bridge.

"The temper of my voice was not pleasant. I can remember standing there and being thunderstruck that the tugs were not going to do it," said Cdr COLIN HAMILTON.

A 20-minute tape-recording of the 2,500-ton ship's departure from the Port of London on June 13 was played to the court. The tape, the equivalent of an aircraft black box flight recorder, gave the captain's commands from the bridge.

Seconds before the collision, one of the ship's senior officers was heard to say tersely: "Stop both engines. Clear the starboard side of the ship." The saying, somewhat incredulously, "We have actually hit London Bridge. We are stuck under the bridge."

'Ignored advice'
Cdr Hamilton, 40, who commanded a patrol vessel during the Falklands conflict, admitted negligently guiding the ship under the bridge, but denied not properly planning the ship's departure or failing to use the two tugs properly.

The collision caused £28,000 damage to London Bridge and some £100,000 to the ship.

The prosecution alleged that Cdr Hamilton tried to turn the ship without tugs, ignoring a senior Port of London pilot's advice.

Denying that he had not properly planned the ship's departure, Cdr Hamilton told the court, "I believe my original plan was sound and I do not accept it was unsafe not to use tugs attached to the ship."

'Uneasy' about plan

On the day of the ship's departure the pilot came on board and wanted tugs to haul the ship off her berth, saying he had used the method before and it was perfectly safe. He told the pilot he was "uneasy" about the plan.

Describing events shortly before the collision, Cdr Hamilton said after the ship started swinging slowly to port, he decided to call for one of the two tugs, Ionia, to push on the ship's starboard side. But Ionia was on his port quarter astern and he realised that the tug was unable to reach his starboard side.

The court martial was adjourned until today.

DEMO JAILING

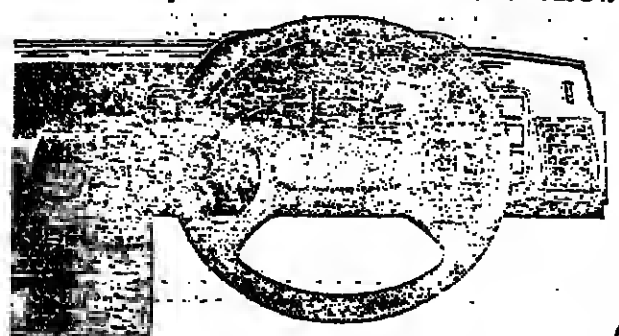
Ceri Wyn, 26, a student from Pen-Glais, Aberystwyth, was jailed for a week at Clerkenwell yesterday when he refused to be bound over to keep the peace following a demonstration at the City and Guilds Institute at King's Cross in protest at the lack of exams in Welsh. Eight others were bound over.

Uno SX Special Edition

IT TAKES SOMETHING SPECIAL TO BEAT THE BEST.

THE UNO SX. IT'S GOT WHAT IT TAKES.

The Fiat Uno. Autocar called it 'the ultimate supermini'. Car magazine judged it 'quite simply the best small car yet'. And it was voted Car of The Year 1984.



When you're aiming to go one better, it's a tough act to beat.

Unless, of course, your dedication to providing the best in comfort and equipment is total.

And unless, like Fiat, you can start with an Uno in the first place. Hence the new special edition Fiat Uno SX, based on the

already outstandingly equipped Uno 70S.

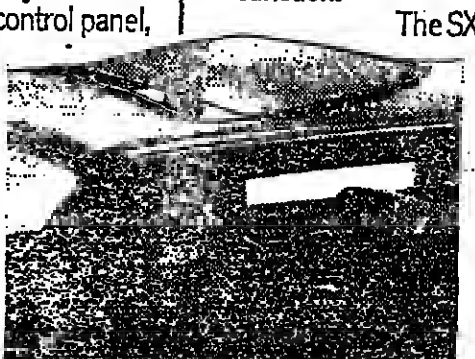
Inside the new SX you'll find specially contoured front and rear seats offering even greater comfort and support; seats upholstered in a special, high quality cloth, with matching door panels and colour co-ordinated headlining.

Above your head there's a tilt-and-slide glass sunroof with blind; and in front of you a comprehensive check control panel, rev counter, digital clock, map reading light, and a special 4 spoke steering wheel.

Plus many of the features of the standard Uno 70S; including a 5-speed gearbox, tinted windows, a heated rear screen with wash/wipe, front seat head restraints and asymmetrically split rear seats. Plus

0-62 mph acceleration in 11.5 seconds, 56.5 mpg economy at a steady 56 mph, and 103 mph top speed.

Outside, black wheel arch extensions, side skirts and a chrome tail pipe add exclusivity to distinction.



The SX's wheels carry attractive flush fitting wheel covers and low profile 165/65 SR 13 tyres.

The front spoiler carries a pair of powerful foglamps.

And best of all, when you visit your Fiat showroom, you'll find that the Fiat Uno carries a price tag that reads just £5,090. The new special edition Fiat Uno SX. For value, as well as quality, it's going to take a lot of beating.

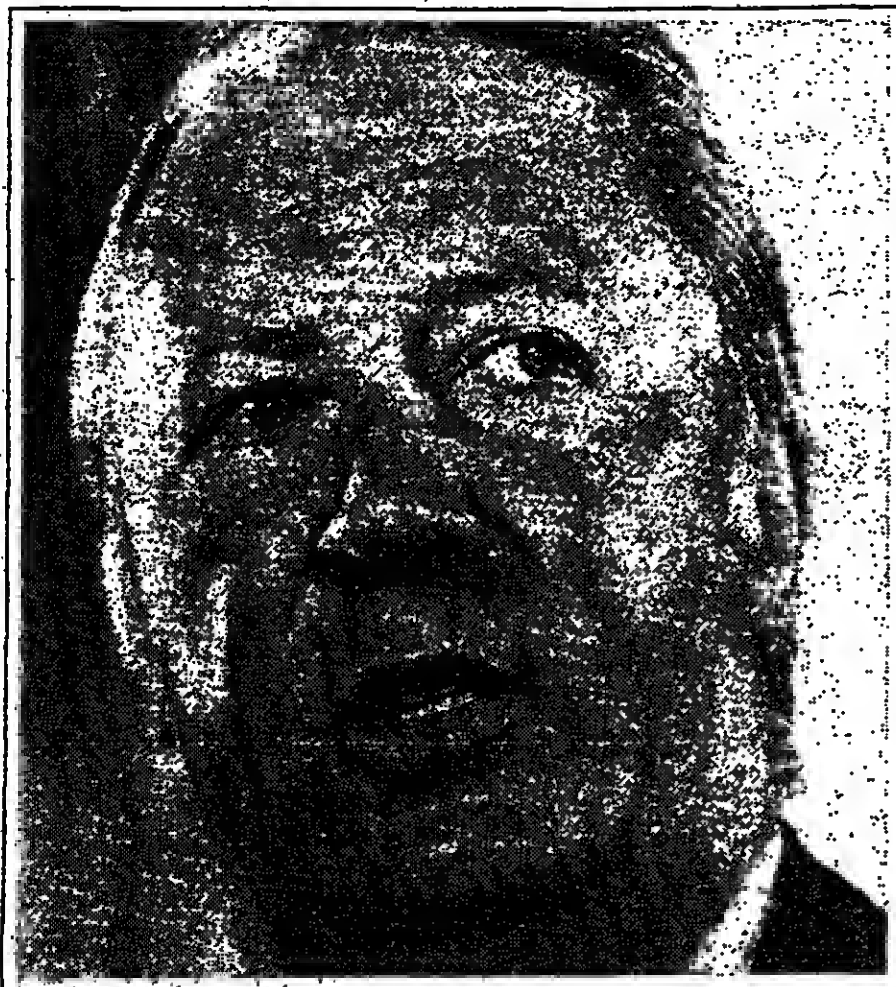
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Are the critics of ratecapping left-wing extremists?



When the new ratecapping laws were put before parliament, thirteen government MPs voted against their own party, including a former prime minister. Many abstained, including a former foreign secretary.

The Tory controlled council in Portsmouth are also among the most vigorous opponents of ratecapping.

In fact, the critics of ratecapping are drawn from all political parties. They also include distinguished academics, doctors and at least one senior police official. People who normally don't speak out on matters of exclusively party political concern.

Their chief objections are that ratecapping is undemocratic, unfair and fundamentally inefficient.

Ratecapping is undemocratic because it takes away your right to vote on local spending.

If your local borough sets rates that are too high for your liking, or if it fails to provide enough services, you have the right to vote them out.

But if you live in a ratecapped borough, it will be Whitehall that decides how much money is spent. And

nobody can vote out a Whitehall civil servant.

Ratecapping is unfair because some of the biggest overspenders in the country (judged by Whitehall's own figures) won't get ratecapped.

But five of the poorest boroughs in the country will.

Even though their needs are clearly greater, and despite the fact that their spending plans are often comparatively modest.

Ratecapping is inefficient because the figures Whitehall uses to judge local needs are inadequate and out of date (according to the government's own Audit Commission Report).

And in any case, it is impossible for a remote bureaucracy in Whitehall to make meaningful judgements about the needs of local communities.

Local government finance is complex, and in need of reform. Ratecapping will make matters worse.

That's why thoughtful people from all parties and all walks of life have opposed the new laws.

They know that it is not the critics of ratecapping, but the ratecapping laws that are extreme.

Ratecapping makes no sense.

TORY CALLS FOR POLICY CHANGE ARE REJECTED

By PETER PRYKE Parliamentary Correspondent

MR LAWSON, Chancellor of the Exchequer, persisted in his preference for tax cuts as a means of cutting unemployment in the Commons last night.

Some Conservative MPs suggested that he would do better to spend the money on a programme of public investment.

But the Chancellor, who has announced that he has scope for tax cuts of about £1.2 billion in his Budget in the spring, indicated his preference for this alternative, particularly by increasing tax thresholds.

By keeping a firm grip on public expenditure, holding it broadly constant in real terms, we shall as the economy continues to expand have progressive scope for a reduction in taxation, not just for the few but for the many," he said.

"We have achieved that for the many by increasing tax thresholds well ahead of inflation. I hope we shall continue to do so."

Mr ROY HATTERSLEY, Shadow Chancellor, said it was now apparent that the Government had no policy for reducing unemployment and that the Chancellor had a higher priority - income tax cuts.

"The unemployed, who are increasing in numbers, are going to have to pay for it."

Spending on imports feared

Conservative MPs argued for a change in Government economic policy twice interrupted the Chancellor during a debate in which he defended his autumn Financial Statement.

Mr PETER TAPSELL (C. Lindsey E.) said that most of the £1.2 billion taken off taxes would be spent on imports and would help the Japanese and Germans, whereas the same amount of money spent on selective capital investment would result in very few imports and would create jobs.

Mr LAWSON replied: "I regard it as an extraordinary degree of defeatism to assume that if the people of this country have more money to spend British industry will be incapable of meeting the opportunity."

Late Mr NICHOLAS WINTERTON (C. Macclesfield) said that if some of the money that went in paying for unemployment and Government manpower schemes was directed to selective capital projects that would reduce unemployment.

Mr LAWSON told him: "There is no benefit in capital projects unless they are worthwhile in their own right."

Wage expectations 'have adjusted'

Opening the debate, Mr Lawson rejected "with anger" the charge in a Labour motion that his policies were "calculated to create and sustain a high level of unemployment."



Mr LAWSON: Keeping a grip on public expenditure.



Mr HATTERSLEY: No policy for reducing unemployment.



Mr TAPSELL: Help for the Japanese and Germans.



Mr PARKINSON: A manic way of resolving differences.

reputation for humanity and compassion — and that goes for the King Wet, the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker — is eroded every time they vote for a strategy which the Government now adopts."

He called on the Government to deny reports that the new Minister Without Portfolio, Lord Young, had called for the ending of supplementary benefits for unemployed 16 to 18-year-olds.

"If I, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, had to choose between cuts in income tax and cuts in unemployment I would choose cuts in unemployment."

Mr CECIL PARKINSON (C. Hertsmere), former Trade and Industry Secretary, said the present miners' strike was a national disaster. At the end of the day, everyone connected with that industry would find themselves in the position that the Japanese had found themselves at the end of the 1939-45 war.

"No one can possibly gain from this strike. It is a manic way of resolving differences to inflict damage on ourselves and benefit our rivals."

"I am convinced that, unless we can find a better way of working together, we will continue to have difficulties and troubles of our own making."

Mr Parkinson said the Government was constantly being accused of not speeding enough on the construction and engineering industries, but this was not borne out by the facts.

"Over £2,000 million will be spent next year on training, which is a direct response to the problems of the young unemployed."

"The public expenditure programme does not support the accusation made against the Government that it does not recognise the problems of British industry and has not responded to them."

Plea for £1bn more cuts

Mr DAVIE HOWELL (C. Guildford) urged the Chancellor to increase the amount available for tax cuts by another £1 billion, to a total of £2.1 billion.

He questioned whether adherence to a £7 billion Public Sector Borrowing Requirement this year was necessary, as what the market wanted was to be sure that over four or five years monetary policy and fiscal policy would coincide.

If the markets saw that the Chancellor was accelerating tax cuts to get on top of the problem of creating jobs they would not start putting the Chancellor under pressure on interest rates.

Making available £2.1 billion for tax cuts would be a good start to a job creation strategy.

Indian poison cloud raises Lords' fears

By WALTER ABURN Parliamentary Staff

FEARS that Britain could also face a large-scale disaster like the poison gas escape which has killed 2,000 people at Bhopal in India, surfaced in the Lords last night.

During the committee stage of a Government measure to tighten safety procedures governing national emergencies, Lord RADNOR (C) said: "Bearing in mind the situation in India, we really ought to be prepared for anything that might happen."

During a debate on the Food and Environment Protection Bill he argued that farmers should receive compensation from the Government for production losses caused by pollution from an unknown source.

Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY (C) said earlier that he was sure they would offer their prayers and sympathy for the dead and dying in India.

He hoped it would be thought correct to think of farmers whose crops might be damaged by any similar disaster here.

Contaminated food

Lord BELSTED, Agriculture Minister of State, promised serious consideration for what had been said.

The Bill is designed to allow Ministers to make emergency orders to stop the consumption of contaminated food and for new provisions to control dumping at sea and to regulate the import, sale, supply and use of pesticides and other preparations to control pests.

Lord Belsted rejected an Opposition amendment which required consultation with local authorities in dealing with health hazards arising from contaminated food.

He said proposals in the Bill were necessary so that the Government could act quickly.

They intended to consult local authorities on administrative arrangements if the Bill became law. It dealt with a narrow but potentially serious situation with harmful substances had been released which could contaminate food.

"We would blame ourselves if we had not laid the right sort of plans," he said. Such situations could occur outside the jurisdiction of local authorities, perhaps at sea.

FEWER ROYAL ORDNANCE JOBS TO GO

Redundancies at two of the Royal Ordnance factories — at Birtley and Bishopclee — would not now be as widespread as it was feared, Lord TREBARNET, Armed Forces Under Secretary, said yesterday in the Lords.

He told Lord Graham of Edmonton (Lab.) that 261 jobs were less likely to be lost at Birtley because of an order received for armour-piercing shells and 240 would be saved at Bishopclee because of the work-load there.

Lord Trebarnet was speaking during a Question Time exchange on Government progress in creating Royal Ordnance P.L.C. to take over ownership of the factories with all the shares to be held initially by the Defence Secretary.

Ministers urged to follow Sir Keith's 'flexibility'

By WILLIAM WEEKES Parliamentary Staff

A CALL for other Ministers to emulate the flexibility shown by Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, in his climb-down over student grants was made by Sir KENNETH LEWIS (C., Stamford and Spalding) in the Commons yesterday.

Conservatives cheered loudly when Sir Kenneth said Sir Keith's action — made in response to heavy pressure from Conservative MPs — had enhanced his reputation and that of the Commons itself.

It was Labour's turn to cheer Sir Kenneth when he added the sting in the tail by asking Mrs Thatcher: "Although I don't want to push it too far, would you have a word with some other Ministers and ask them to be equally forthcoming and flexible on these things in the coming months?"

After thanking Sir Kenneth for his opening words, Mrs THATCHER told him: "No, I shall not urge the Chancellor to have more public expenditure."

Robbed science

"May I remind you that there is a great need to lift taxation at the threshold in order to help those on comparatively low wages and to increase the gap between those on social security and those on earnings."

Mr KINNOCK protested that in the course of making this "desirable concession" on students grants, the Government had robbed science to save its own skin regardless of the damage inflicted on British engineering, medicine, industry and technology.

"If it is the case that last week, in the words of the Secretary of State, the desperate plight of the scientist could wait no longer, why can it wait longer this week?"

Mrs THATCHER retorted that the science budget was growing and would be bigger next year than this. Under Sir Keith's stewardship the science budget for 1984-85 was £550 million as against £774 million in the last year of the Labour Government.

The Prime Minister responded by quoting the Labour Government's own record on public spending when Mr Kinnoch demanded an end to her "obsession" with cuts.

Biggest cuts

She said the biggest spending cuts in the last 10 years occurred between 1976-77 when Labour made cuts of £9 billion in terms of 1982 prices.

"I congratulate you on being the Government which cut public expenditure by a bigger amount than ever before," she told Mr Kinnoch. "But you are replying to further questions, said there were always difficult choices to be made in public spending, but it could not go on rising."

Dr DAVID OWEN, S.D.P. leader, said it was "disgarding" to pull back the money desperately needed by science and in spite the ship for a half-price of far.

Mrs THATCHER replied that Dr Owen was in the comfortable position of opposition and refused to make those difficult choices.

"You had to make them in government, and you were a member of a government which made £9 billion cuts in one year."

Mr PETER HORDEN (C. Horsham) suggested there should be a full review of public spending at the start of the year to allow for the fullest possible consultation with MPs.

"The Chancellor's autumn reviews have so far been altogether too much like Russian roulette with the pistol pointed at our feet. It is time all this changed."

COMING DEBATES

HOUSE OF LORDS
Mon: Debate on Government motion approving its intention to sign an agreement with China on the future of Hongkong and on the withdrawal of the £1 note.
Tues: Report stage of two Orders Confirmation Bills relating to Scottish ports; Food and Environment Protection Bill, etc.
Wed: Debate on Opposition motion on unemployment; debate on the confinement in prison of mentally ill offenders.
Thurs: Valerie Mary Hill and Alan Monk (Marriage Enabling Bill, 2nd rdg); two Scottish Order Confirmation Bills, 3rd rdg; three Immunities and Privileges Orders; European Communities (Lead and Zinc Study Group and Inter-American Development Bank; Euron Communities Supplementary Finance Order.
HOUSE OF COMMONS
Mon: Representation of the people Bill, 2nd rdg; Local Govt (Interim Provs) Act 1984 (Appointed Day) Order.
Tues: Debate on the EEC draft general budget for 1985; International Development Association (Seventh Replenishment) Order; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (1984 Selective Capital Increase) Order.
Wed and Thurs: Local Government Bill, etc.
Fri: Private Members' motions.
Mon, Tues, 11: Private Members' motions; Merchant Shipping (Under Conference) Orders; Appropriation (No 5) (N.I.) Order.
Today in Parliament
HOUSE OF COMMONS
2.30 p.m. Private Members' motions.

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INSIDE

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THE ARTS

FILMS / Seasonal fantasies

STEVIN SPIELBERG is evidently not one to repeat himself, and while there are some similarities between the Extra Terrestrial of his popular film and *Grimms*, the comparable creature at the centre of *Grimms*, there are more differences.

This time he distances himself from the proceedings, acting as chief executive producer but not as director or writer. So if the story, starting so sweetly, develops questionably, as it does, it is the director, Joe Dante, and scriptwriter, Chris Columbus.

Nothing could be more intriguing than the opening with a father, who happens to be a crackpot inventor, going to the Chinese quarter to find a special Christmas present for his young son who has a hankering for a mid-west town.

Lured into a cellar, he hears the sound of singing from a cage in which he finds a creature of unknown species but much charm, looking rather like a Pekinese with ears like a bat's wings.

This is sold to him reluctantly by an old Chinaman with three warnings: the animal must be kept away from water, be protected from strong light, and most curiously, never be fed after midnight.

By these provisions one is reminded of a classic fairy story, but nothing of that kind occurs when *Grimms* is taken home and given to the delighted son, Billy Peltzer, who finds him so attractive and original, he quickly calls him a young friend to admire him in his cage.

Alas, he spills some water from a glass on *Grimms*, with the surprising result that he multiplies.

All this goes on in the Peltzer home in a very matter of fact fashion, with Billy going to work each day and sometimes seeing his girl friend, Kate, while some fun arises from the father's ridiculous inventions.

No warning, then, that this is going to turn sharply into a horror comic, with much more horror than comedy, when the last commandment is broken, and the cocker is fed after midnight by Rand, whose watch has stopped.

That they should change from amiable to vicious comes as a great shock, and while the original *Grimms* has some horror not suffered from these accidents, his progeny take on not only a frightening appearance but an aggressive attitude against humans, and we have Billy's mother trying to protect herself with a carving knife.

How these miniature monsters go to terrify the town in ways I won't divulge, multiplying infinitely when one falls into a swimming bath, makes a rather alarming story, intelligence, which enables them to cut telephone lines and jam traffic lights, not to mention

Grimms (15) Warner
Ghostbusters (PG) Odeon, Leicester Square
A Christmas Carol (U) Classic, Haymarket

driving cars, turns them into formidable adversaries.

That some of their antics, with toys in a department store, for instance, are funny is undeniable, but laughter is effectively stifled by the real terror they inspire and, in the end, when sufficient light is found to obliterate them, I, for one, was much relieved.

IVAN REITMAN'S *Ghostbusters* is another fantasy, but with no touches of reality at all, to be enjoyed for its zany humour typical of the "National Lampoon" school from which several of its contributors are drawn.

There is, for instance, no suggestion of reality in the department store's surreal occurrences to which we are introduced to a New York university.

The three young scientists conducting interviews belong all too obviously to fantasy, in which they soon find themselves deeply immersed.

For the department is closed down and they set up in business to carry out the same sort of investigations, but commercially, the firm being advertised as "Ghostbusters".

And much wanted, very quickly, by an assistant in the university library who, on a visit to the basement, finds herself pelted by cards from the index system.

Our three scientists, with special electronic equipment, eventually capture a sort of green cloud of vapour which has caused the trouble, and lock it up in a strong box.

After this, business booms, and the three intrepid ghost fighters, looking with their laser beam and other special equipment strapped to their backs, like a military assault unit, have soon got a fine assortment of ghosts in the same bag.

Only their H.Q. which was built as a temple, itself appears to be hideously haunted, having associations with an ancient eastern dynasty, and the girl whom the leading scientist fancies becomes identified with a queen of 50,000 years ago.

A young man from her block of flats becomes identified with her King complicates matters, but the trio is evidently equal to all demands which become considerable when statues start escaping from their stoves, as it were, and the temple goes up like a rocket when the ghosts escape.

There's no logic in any of this, but any amount of high spirits and, once again, a great contribution from special effects. Bill Murray does sing, gets tongue in the cheek as the

leading scientist, with Sigourney Weaver decorative as his girl.

WITH Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* last coming up in 1970 (with Albert Finney as Scrooge), Alec Guinness as Marley's ghost) a new version does not come amiss, especially one so strongly cast as Clive Donner's.

With George C. Scott as Scrooge, so American influence might be suspected, but although he manages the long part with his usual authority, melting into geniality quite delightfully in the end, the film in general is a triumph for that estimable article, the British character actor.

Frank Finlay as Marley's Ghost, Roger Rees as Scrooge's nephew, Fred Holtwell, David Warner as Bob Cratchit and Susannah York as his wife all give beautifully executed studies, with the Ghosts of Christmas past, present and future safe in the hands of Angela Pleasance, Edward Woodward and Michael Carter.

Patrick Gibbs



Zach Galligan as Billy in "Grimms."

TELEVISION / Scenes from a spy story

PROF. John White Tyler of Cambridge is a flawed man. It looks as though there may be a skeleton in his cupboard, along with a regiment of lip-stick-decorated female conquests. He also has a mysterious new nuclear policy, to put it in his fellow West European strategists' terms. "If we cannot cause damage in quantity then we should try to cause damage of quality," he instructs.

This matters so much that the jewel in the crown, a man believed to be "clean in thought, word and deed," has been seconded to guard the Tyler back. He is Charles Dance, alias Major Harry Martin. The Secret Servant (BBC1).

The Gavin Lyall spy story has been adapted by Brian Clemens as the three-part mini-series which opened last night, continues tonight and concludes tomorrow. In the process it has been remoulded to meet film conventions from an informative narrative into an assembly of short scenes apparently designed to turn a thriller into a mystery.

The opening sequences, for instance, has the Major standing as nobly as Sergeant Gyp Perron in some Middle Eastern desert, looking mildly alarmed as a light aircraft crashes. The significance of this is not obviously underlined. Back on the printed page Lyall reveals that Harry's much loved wife was killed in that crash and hints that 'grief at her death may have made him more careless of his own life.'

Later Lyall has a tightly written scene in some Wiltshire

coaching inn, following that weapons demonstration on Salisbury Plain. It advances the plot efficiently and, for those inclined to be thrilled by such things, thrillingly. This is too prosaic for scriptwriter Clemens, who prefers to scatter incidents from the scene about to meet the prevailing uncertainty. And lose some of the tension.

The mystery is not all lost. At No. 10 the Major finds that everybody calls the Prime Minister "the Headmaster." It is disappointing to discover from the book that Lyall is not actually referring to Mrs Thatcher and has passed the job on to some obscure Scotsman.

More difficulty is added with the soundtrack. It may be better on air but at the critics' preview it registered as so over-recorded that the rain was as insistent indoors as out. Willoughby Goddard's soup-splurping turn, Master of Prof. Tyler's College, had to be monstrously amplified just to be heard. Mere words frequently disappeared.

The acting under Alastair Reid's direction, is as inscrutable as necessary. For reasons best known to him this rule

does not apply to the Professor's potential bed-mate, even the maid labelled as Lyall as "expressiveness." They all signalled their willingness with the subtlety of extras in a Benny Hill show.

Rather more disturbing were the documentary aspects of the evening. Richard Belfield's *Reitman's* (BBC2), in the "Forty Minute" anthology, gave a cautious glimpse of male prostitution as operated in Birmingham City centre. Many questions were left unanswered, particularly about the professional who looked (in darkened silhouette) and sounded as if he should still be in some fourth form.

Perhaps "Open Space" could be cleared for his life story. It was for the articulate, personable 20-year-old Denise Simpson who told of her first 18 years supervised by Hampshire social services. She perhaps underestimates the difficulties her crowning pains caused. That is small excuse. The questionmark of *Handled With Care* (BBC2) is purely rhetorical.

Sean Day-Lewis

MUSIC / Martinu's arid landscape

COMING HOME from Martinu's "The Greek Passion" just in time for a Channel 4 discussion on religion and politics served to point up the continuing logic of the Czech composer's last work. The Welsh National Opera's production turned part of their current season at London's Dominion Theatre.

Do Christian ethics apply to current affairs? In Martinu's men's libretto, derived from Kazanovsky's novel "Christ the Crucified," the shepherd Manolios is also the part of the Redeemer in the Greek villagers' Passion Play. Taking the message to heart he stands up for the starving Cypriot refugees, and in a final, brutally opposed by the Philistine

Elders, he is in due course excommunicated by the Priest Grigoris and killed by the Jews. Panais.

The powerful plot is grippingly stated with stark realism by Michael Gelliot, while John Gunter's songs evoke the ambiguity of an arid, sun-baked landscape with just a few suggestive props including two live goats and the dead sheep destined to carry Jesus.

The more the plot then, it for once is the music that does not live up to the libretto. The disturbing emptiness of the score must not be taken to imply that by 1930 it had become impossible to write religious music in a tonal idiom. In fact it is a veritable

tragedy that in the last year of his life Martinu's powers of invention should have failed him so drastically compared with, say, his opera "Julietta" or many an instrumental work.

In the main part Jeffrey Lawton deeply involved in the shepherd's inner turmoil caused by the complex relations with the widow-Katerina — Mary Magdalena to him — sung by Phyllis Carrar. John Tranter made a strong case vocally for the still priest, while William Markie, meekly sang the pauper minister of the immigrants. Under Anthony Neame the splendid orchestra did more than justice to the score.

Peter Stadlen

Royal Philharmonic Society

A WORK which in its grandeur and breadth of vision and overwhelming beauty is the equal of the most monumental achievements of the great masters of music.

That was Peter Warlock's enthusiastic contemporary opinion of Delius's large-scale choral work "A Mass of Life". As a view held close to the excitement of early performances, its extravagance may be forgiven.

As revealed at Westminster, the Royal Philharmonic Society concert also heard on Radio 3 the world's premiere of the work's sincerity could hardly be called into question as Sir John Pritchard with no

BBC forces gave it an answer in the form of a magnificent and consistent weaving and emphasis on the point of regard and looking only to come more obviously self-indulgent in such a splendid resolution, and the choral harmonies leading to self-gratifying expression seem like the dome of a divine idiom.

Perhaps Nietzsche's poetry calls for such treatment. Perhaps the alternating of evaluation and timeless stasis, and their very special Delian mode and feeling with old chromaticisms and discords, are justified by their individuality of character. For me it is like eating an

excess of very sweet chocolate, though there is no doubt the technic beauty of such passages as a Prelude to Part II and the description of Zoroaster's summer sleep.

Benjamin Luxon, after a most start, proclaimed Zoroaster's life-giving philosophy with impassioned warmth. It is hardly the singers' fault, rather the composer's, that Teresa Cahill, Arthur Haines and Alfred Hodgson made so little impression. As I have implied, the orchestral and choral contributions were on the highest plane of achievement.

Alan Blyth

Music and Revolution

LENIN realised from the start that his economic and political reforms after the October Revolution could not at once be matched by comparable shifts in artistic creativity and taste. The post-Revolution decade or so was a time of experiment in the Soviet Union, before the dead hand of socialist realism took control in the early 1930s, and some of the musical and poetic ideas exploded during this period of flux are represented in a programme of Russian music and cleverly related readings given by the group Music and Revolution.

These six artists are on tour for the next week, having given the opening concert in the series at the Bloomsbury Theatre on Wednesday.

Skryabin, Prokofiev and Shostakovich are the mainstays of the musical part of the evening, but in truth they have very little of substance to support. While it is interesting to hear Musorgsky developing Mussorgsky's vocal writing in his songs, Dushov supplying the "pulsating" masses in whom machine oil is mother's milk, with the Prokofievian "Railway Tracks," and Prokofiev's finding a fresh slant on Stravinsky's idea, none seems to have a new voice with anything positive or questing to say.

Some of the underlying trends of early Soviet music have been taken up by Edison Denisov in his new work, "The

Blue Notebook," here featuring first performance. Based on Debussy's texts by Khayms and Vedenicki, it contrasts slowly-moving elegies for the soprano with spikier stories in a witty witty Georgian vein, accompanied by occasionally unimpaired music from the instrumentalists, and concluding with a pleasant piece of nonsense in which the singer and the speaker strike a range of suspended bottles, jars, kettles and kitchen utensils. According to Skryabin, it is capable even of Skryabin-like lighting effects, which may well have rendered it more dramatic, but musically it falls terribly flat.

Geoffrey Norris

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THEATRE / Battles behind the lines

AS A COMEDY of British military manners in the old Peter Ustinov discursive style, *Desert Air* by Nicholas Wright at The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, is divertingly observant and sharp wittily satirical but somehow essentially misplaced.

The tone is reminiscent of those film scenarios in which Mr Ustinov studies satirically the habits of our wartime soldiers — though Mr Wright sticks to the officer class.

He discovers in fact two classes. One comprises the public school and university men who were born to lead and knew it. The other takes in the upstarts, sons of hatmen and all that sort of lower class thing. It is Mr Wright's pleasure to suggest that before the enemy could be beaten in the last war the British Army had to win several battles behind its own lines.

Could these majors and brigadiers be said to have betrayed one another in their struggle for promotion? Well, that is the solemn theme. But the author makes so light of it that we hardly care what happens much to anyone as long as the jockeying for position amid the top brass in Egypt in 1942-5 as it is poised to send a mission to Yugoslavia to sort out the partisans, is kept at the level of stock types.

The trouble is that although the personal conflicts are amusing and richly characterised in Geoffrey Hutchings' twitching tyrant of a colonel of the lingo-type, we can't help wondering why so much trouble should be taken over such a — well, a scenario. For that is what these lively episodes amount to rather than a play.

With all its off-stage assistance, including an excellent orchestra, the company almost outnumbers the necessarily small audience for Adrian Noble's well-drilled production which evokes the spirit of the British Army in the Middle East with a fine sense of atmosphere.

But when someone complains about "dreadful co-ordination", militarily speaking, we can't help thinking that this jolly little piece might have seemed better co-ordinated on the screen. We must salute the author's retrospective understanding of his types in a conflict which took place before he was born, apart from Mr Hutchings' irrepressible bully, the acting of Peter Erre (his main opponent) and of Nicholas Farrell and Polly James (who has all the right social connections) is good. But it seems an oddly extravagant evening for the Royal Shakespeare Company to have bothered with.

Eric Shorter

Some of these notices appeared in yesterday's later editions.

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CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Worlds of fantasy

By David Twiston Davies

JESSICA is worrying about leaving her pet duckling after the holiday when suddenly an armed crocodile appears and invites her to bring the little fellow to "the other side" for a month until he is grown up.

At first, it seems cosy enough living in a household with Alfred the crocodile, Hamish the hippopotamus and an ermine dog, though Jessica is disappointed that the duckling is still dumpy. They have set off for the very end, where the terrible witch, Lady Gleam, lives.

As an experienced thriller-writer, David Osborn sets a fast pace in Jessica and the Crocodile Knight (Dragon/Granada, £4.95). The little band find themselves battling with pirates, almost dying in a desert and escaping by balloon from an angry who insists that since Alfred's name begins with A he must marry his daughter. Yet although Alfred's quest for a princess to rescue so that he can win his knightship provides a charming theme, the Osborn does not quite weld his many, perfectly legitimate borrowings into a world truly his own.

When retired seadog Samuel Swain mistakenly fills up the balloons with gas instead of air his entire premises lift off the front at Cocklestone-on-Sea. Nobody notices, though, any more than young Henry Hollins and the two quarrelsome, middle-aged seafarers fail to return to the Sea View guesthouse.

Aboard "The Inflatable Ship" (Bodley Head, £3.50), Captain Swain turns his three

stranded customers into crew and manages eventually to steer a course for land... only to be greeted by three-eyed green creatures. Willis Hall recounts his story with a broad humour, which is complemented by Barbara Cole's pictures.

The rich imagination of the New Zealander Margaret Mabey is amply demonstrated in "The Birthday Bargain and A Very Wicked Headmistress" (Dent, £3.95). The first story is about a lonely boy who, with his family, steals other people's birthdays.

The second deals with a crooked extra-terrestrial, Miss Taffeta, who runs a private school, with only her brother's help, by disguising herself as a member of staff. The girls grumble but things only get out of hand when a volcano erupts at a nearby farm and mixes eggs and sugarbeet to produce a caramel custard containing diamonds. A boiler explosion puts paid to the school, but Miss Taffeta survives. I only hope that further stories about her will contain stronger plot lines.

I suspect that Maurice Dodd, a television cartoonist, began "Merrymade the Intrepid" (Hodder, £4.50) with his excellent illustrations, which certainly attracted one five-year-old. His mole hero is first shown doing aerobics in a biplane, pretending to be a first world war ace. But the story only gets under way when the rymole, but an airship to rescue the mysterious beast whom his old enemy Enstace Browne-Rat has kidnapped by some splendidly yobbish bats.

Shaun Traynor's "Hugo Orange" (Methuen, £3.95) is a plainly related account of the



This vivid picture by John Lawrence for "Boj," a verse for shouting at children who wake early, comes from "Nothingness Day" (Allison & Busby, £5.95), a collection of Adrian Mitchell's poems for children.

giant left behind when his fellows leapt up to heaven. Hugo is woken from his deep sleep by children who are enthralled by his tales of long ago and are not afraid to enlist his help when a house is trapped in a soap bubble.

Much more sophisticated, "The Oak King and the Ash Queen" (O.U.P., £6.95) tells how Dan and Daisy, walking in Hartwood Forest, are drawn into the world of the tree people with their seasons and conflicts. Both children join different sides, learning to use bow and spear, before combining to resist a ruthless play by the winter trees. Some children, however, may find that Ann Phillips's story smacks too much of the holiday task.

Among collections, "Alan Garner's Book of British Fairy Tales" (Collins, £8.95), which

is dramatically illustrated by Derek Colford, skilfully presents traditional stories for reading aloud, often in regional accents. Some adults may jib at obvious grammatical errors but they drop off the tongue naturally enough.

In "Tales from Wales" (Dragon/Granada, £4.95) Harri Webb's prose has a suitable lilt as he reworks selections from "The Mabonogion" together with later legends about Gellert and St David. For many the greatest joy will be Lesley Bruce's vivid colour pictures.

Floella Benjamin's "Why the Agoon Has No Tail" (Hutchinson, £4.95) economically recounts some West Indian tales about Anansi the Spider-man, and others from India, Africa and China. There is no marked flavour, but they are none the worse for that.

Brothers on the trot

By Roland Gant

Running the Himalayas. By Richard and Adrian Crane. (N.E.L. £10.95.)
The Ants' Gold: the Discovery of the Greek El Dorado in the Himalayas. By Michel Peissel. (Harvill, £9.95.)

FOR 50 years or more the travel book has been sent up as much as Royal memoirs. So, after reed rafts, hide coracles, extraordinary journeys by intrepid people who raise a lot of money for good causes, what is left?

There is, for instance, "Running the Himalayas," for which Lord Hunt contributed a warm, admiring foreword. It is a wonderfully readable record by two brothers under 30 of their 101-day run over more than 2,000 miles, the fastest ever foot traverse of the Himalayan range. Richard and Adrian Crane's diaries (each often highly critical of the other) and personal stories have been made into a lively story by their friend Marshall Lee.

They actually ran the whole way from Darjeeling through Nepal to Rawalpindi in Pakistan. Travelling so lightweight that they discarded trippers like plastic forks and cups, food for the night and next day, lower legs of trousers and even a length of string, they endured intense heat that stretched their shirts with sweat, withstood dysentery, infected toes, lice, trots in the wrong direction—and made it. It was not for Crane greater glory either: one has a PhD in geology, the other is a computer consultant in California.

Their mother's death was kept from them until they were well on the way because that was what she wanted; and both their parents were proud to

know that the brothers were raising money for the Intermediate Technology Development Group, a charity concerned with applying technologies to the benefit of underprivileged peoples.

An evocative book, often to be read through the soles of the feet, and smelling of salty tea and yak-dung fires—an enthralling non-nonsense account of an extraordinary achievement.

Michel Peissel, an old Himalayan hand who is a Tibetan-speaking Franciscan and writes in English, has two starting ideas for "The Ants' Gold." First, he attempts to locate the Dards or Minaro who could be descendants of the Aryan ancestors so many of us share. Second, he examines what Herodotus was talking or lying about in his accounts of gold-digging ants in the Himalayas.

The first theme is the more interesting since we all love stories of blue-eyed blond people isolated among Mongols and Arabs for centuries; even so, lost gold is always fascinating.

The Minaro, European of feature and temperament, would seem to survive and so do the ants who scuff up gold on the Plain of Dansas (visited illegally by the author in rather hilarious disguise) yet they are not ants but cat-sized marmots. Dr Peissel concludes: "I leave the gold for others to collect." It is his anthropological research and rough travelling that makes his book so readable.

MARY HIGGINS CLARK STILLWATCH

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Tales and legends

By Stella Rodway

THAT money isn't everything is the well-worn but Christmassy message linking together the admirably diverse collection of tales in "The Faber Book of Christmas Stories," edited by Sara and Stephen Corrin (Faber, £5.50), an excellent choice for questing aunts and uncles.

The stories come from different periods and different literary levels. Charles Dickens's "Christmas Carol" (abridged, though the editors are understandably defensive) rubs shoulders with "The Ghost of Christmas Present" by Wilkie Collins, a silly, already dated story children will undoubtedly enjoy about a skate-boarding ghost of Scrooge. Some lovely old legends include "Brother John and his Silver Bell," in which the Christ Child assists an old hermit in his task of guiding the local fishermen.

At a more homely level, Noel Streetfield tells of hard-up but matey Rosa and Ted who melt the icy heart of rich Mrs. Cornish by installing holly, paper chains and the Christmas spirit in the kitchen of her changing times. An old favourite is O. Henry's charmingly ironic tale, "The Gift of the Magi," about a young couple, each of whom sacrifices for the other a most treasured possession.

Charm and sentiment are much less evident as we move to novels of the contemporary scene, where love among the A levels mixes oddly with a strong strain of fantasy. Tim Kennemore's undeniably absorbing story, "The Changing Times" (Faber, £5.95), tells of a particularly nasty teenage girl, Victoria, who acquires a mysterious clock which can take her backwards and forwards in time. This shows her the reason for her mother's problems as well as of her own. She gains not much compassion, but a painful insight into her incompatibility with her boy-friend, Daniel, when she turns down just in time the traditions in time are particularly well done.

The forces of elemental evil are on the rampage in the next two novels, in both of which a young boy falls victim to fear of an ancient stone face. In "Blowworth Blue" by William Corlett (Julia MacRae, £6.95) it is the face of the Lincoln Imp in Lincoln Cathedral which terrifies young Jason. He is haunted also by the memory of a rare butterfly, wondrously destroyed, and by the terrible death-bed confession of his Uncle Wilf. With four-letter words and all, the tone is up to the minute. ("You're not suffering, are you?" asks Jason's sister.)

In "The Fear of Samuel Walton" by Roger J. Greco (O.U.P., £7.95), the evil face is on an ancient stone cross which inspires primitive fear in a small boy. The tale is set in 19th-century Yorkshire and is full of vivid authentic detail, including some amusing school scenes. It also has many exciting moments, such as Samuel's battle in a disused tin mine, and frustrating ones when he tries to warn the sceptical adults and fails to avert the death of a favourite uncle.

More lighthearted is "Goody Hatt" (Dent, £6.95) by American writer Natalie Babbitt—a fantasy with that perennial theme that rich doesn't mean happy. In it, ex-actor Hercules Polwright, who has an engaging habit of misquoting Shakespeare, turns tutor to an unhappy rich boy, solves the mystery of a jewel robbery, and comes nearer to finding himself. Curious, original and great fun. For those who would rather have their hair stand on end, there is slim volume "Ghastly Companions" by Vivien Alcock (Methuen, £5.95), which contains some beautifully written, moving tales, including one about a typhoid with a mind of its own. Teenage romance blossoms or wilts with few inhibitions in "Just Good Friends" by Jane O'Connor (Gollancz, £6.95), "Gentlewoman Prefer My Sister" by Stephanie Calman (Heinemann, £7.95), and "Two's Company" by Catherine Storr (Patrick Hardy, £5.95).

THROUGH THE MILL

By Michael Maxwell-Scott

DURING the last 18th century and much of the 19th, Britain was the centre of the world textile industry, although her technological expertise was continually being filtered off by commercial spies and skilled emigrants, most especially to America.

In "Mill" (Collins, £6.95) the architect and illustrator David Macaulay depicts the construction of four imaginary cotton mills at Wicksbridge, Rhode Island, in the 18th century, designed by a young English emigrant of lively mind whose diary excerpts offer a crisp commentary. The drawings of waterwheels, dams, lines of machinery being a whole era humming back to life—as indeed do others of Mr. Macaulay's happy re-creations of the past.

Clear and uncluttered atlases tend to get lost or taken (accidentally) to school by 9- to 11-year-olds, so if you buy "The Oxford Foundation Atlas" (O.U.P., £5.95) safeguard it. All of it seems good—especially those "thematic" pages (where, say, Inuit/Lowest), and the new projection of all the countries of the world (on the cover) is interesting if rather dizzy-making. "The Squirrel" and "The Fox" (Dent, £5.50 each) both

by Joyce Pope, are additions to the series "Animals in Towns." They are partly stories, partly detailed observations, such as how a squirrel hurries nuts hat forgets where he put them, and how the mother squirrel carries her young through the trees. The young fox finds a mate: "They often sang their unmusical calls to each other, but the few people who heard them thought the weird noises were made by birds." Lovely little books these, the coloured paintings by Elizabeth Goss are stunningly accurate.

"101 More Questions about Science" (Hamish Hamilton, £5.95) is Brian J. Ford's sequel to his original "101 Questions about Science." Science, he reminds us, has to be fun. For instance, a question: "Why do spiders get into the bath?" Basically because they do not have adhesive pads on their feet to keep them from slipping. "How much water can a camel store in its hump?" None. Camels do not store any water in their humps. Instead they lay down supplies of fat they lay down supplies of fat which burn to produce carbon dioxide and water. "Why do the Sun and Moon look the same size?" Because, though the Sun is 400 times larger in diameter than the Moon, it is 400 times further away.

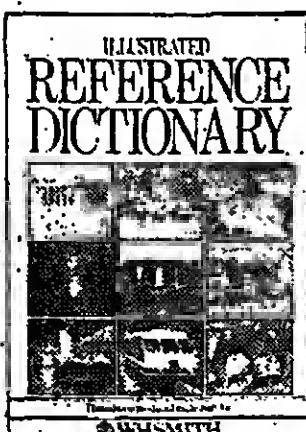
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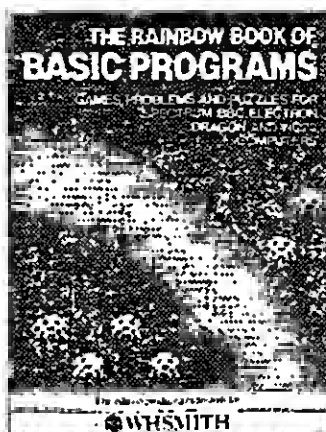
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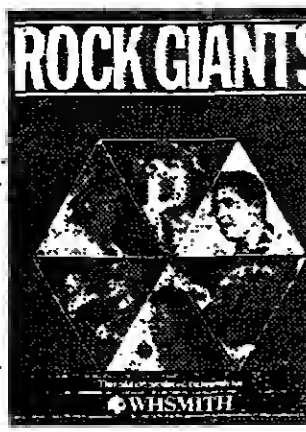
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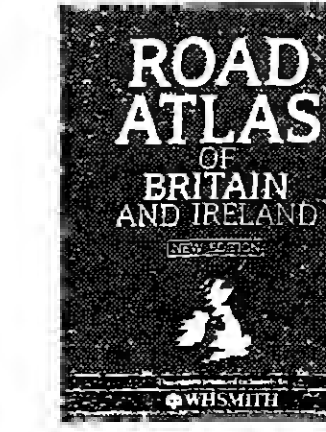
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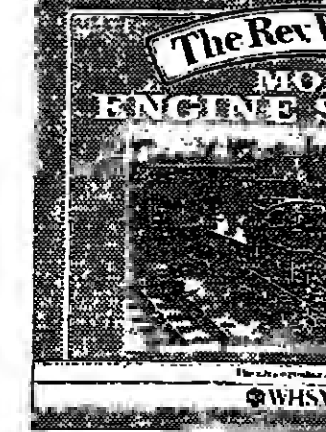
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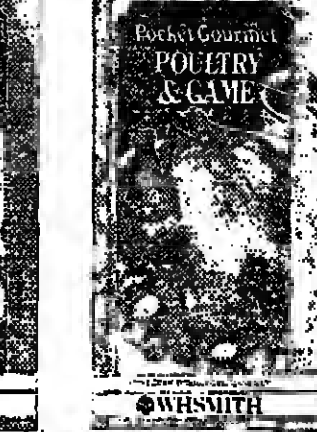
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YOUR PARTY LOOK, ALL WRAPPED UP

BY ANN CHUBB

A FEW quick beauty tricks—a new hairstyle or a dramatic new make-up for a party—can often work the magic effect of total transformation yet cost very little.

Headwraps are still with us and can give those hard aggressive teenage haircuts a softer new look for night-time.

The young style we picture here, for instance, was achieved with nothing more than hairspray and an off-cut of dress net costing only a few pence.

Similar but more sophisticated looks could make use of odd pieces of lace or brocade with equal effect.

It is all change on the make-up counter too, with stunning new suggestions on how to paint your face from all the major French houses.

When is a lipstick blue, for example?

When it is Saint Laurent's stunning new shade No. 47. This is a sheer bright carmine hit with iridescent shots of blue and has sheer shiny red/blue nail polish to match.

Iridescent and opalescent are in so far as Saint Laurent is concerned. Even his palest tones for lips and nails really

do remind one of opals (Pearled Opal Pink No. 45).

Eyes are shaded with soft purple shadow highlight with pale gold, lashes brushed with violet mascara.

Violet is the newest mascara colour from Chacel. Eye colours are a clever combination of four: bronze, pink, violet and gold, to combine or use separately.

Lips here too are a true bright red, although there is an alternative pious brow (Brun Commande) that really does provide a strong yet natural tone to wear for day with all the currently fashionable country toots.

On a different tack is Dior's new range, Les Secrets. The big "secret" here is the use of dark smoky eye-colours, unexpectedly combined with pale shiny translucent lipstick.

At first glance the dark colours of the eye palettes with their four colours all centring on either black or smoke look daunting, but subtly applied with their accompanying highlights of grey/rose or grey/ochre they look dramatic with the contrast of pale transparent lipsticks.



TOGETHERNESS BY THE SEA

THIRTY-TWO or more voluntary welfare and social groups, clubs and associations in the Sussex village of Pevensey make up a pattern of community life so varied that some organisers think it must be a record for such a small place.

Organisers of these groups use the word "extraordinary" to describe the involvement of some 4,000 members in activities which range from Ago Concern and the Flower Club, Aqua Club, Social Club, Horticultural Society, Cancer Research, Darts and Judo, and Residents' Association to the Young at Heart social club and bell ringing.

Ago Concern serves 3,500 people in the Pevensey area and raised £10,000 in a year to put an ambulance for the elderly on the road.

Another enterprise, Guide Dogs for the Blind, has raised funds for three dogs.

Over 25 voluntary organisations got together for their Christmas Bazaar which has just raised £1,100.

Ago Concern has a Christmas Day dinner in the Red Cross hall where volunteers will provide a turkey dinner, with all the trimmings and wine, for £1. for lonely people. There is no "age" involvement in this; anyone lonely is welcome.

The Royal British Legion, Westham and Pevensey branch, has a Father Christmas parcel delivery service for people who might not get parcels, or indeed, for anyone someone wishes to remember.

There is no figurehead end

each group runs its own affairs, but Mr Kan Uhyatt, Chairman of the Welfare Ambulance Committee, a former Ago Concern secretary and Burma Star veteran, knows the scene as well as anyone.

"It is extraordinary," he said, "the way everyone is involved. The atmosphere is in the community; we have even had Scout Cubs helping in some enterprises."

The Ago Concern "Pop-in" lunch, where up to 60 people a day meet for soup, bread, biscuits and cheese, coffee and fruit for 35p is a happy occasion where the noise is on the level of a children's playground.

Another enterprise special to Pevensey is the Parish Puns, a 16-page non-profit newsletter with news from the voluntary organisations in Westham, Pevensey and Pevensey Bay, which goes into 2,500 households every month. It tells what the Flower Club and W.I., the Young at Heart social club, Senior Citizens club, Cubs and Scouts and the Youth Club are doing.

People in "the Bay" do not claim to be unique, but beneath the area's seemingly staid exterior, they feel they have achieved a pattern of living which could be a model for other places of similar size. They would be happy to know there are other small communities that have built up such a pattern of self-help and co-operation but doubt if their record of achievement can be equalled.

Reg Foster

THE ENTERTAINER

JUST back from a year's schooling in Paris, Felicity Simpson is now embarking on a London season, and if that conjures up Sloane Ranger images, they're far from the truth.

For 20-year-old Felicity, (pictured right, by PAUL ARMIGER), with a smile so wide it seems about to split her face, has been studying at a circus school in Paris, and her London season will be divided between Leicester Square and the piazza of Covent Garden.

Her act, which she has devised herself, consists of juggling, "Chinese ribbons" and magic, and she hopes it will help to earn her enough to take her to Brazil and the state circus school there.

What made this youngest-of-four from a West London family (her brother is a draughtsman, one sister a teacher, and mother a recent sociology graduate) choose such a career?

"I was always a bit of a show-off as a child," she says. "I used to skate-board a lot, and then I taught myself to juggle and to ride a unicycle, and when I was 16 I was asked to be in the Lord Mayor's parade. That led to odd store-promotion jobs, and once to a spot on a children's TV show."

She got five O-levels and went on to try for A-levels "although I realised I wasn't academic and I failed them all. I could have done drama at Clarendon Polytechnic, but it didn't seem my style—not spontaneous enough—so when I heard about Annie Fratellini's school in Paris I decided to go there. I sold fire-alarms all summer and saved up £180."

In a large tent near the Porte de la Villette, she was taught acrobatics, equilibrium, trapeze work and classical dance at the circus school, paying £35 a month, plus insurance. Hostel accommodation would have added another £140 a month, away beyond her means, but the Accueil des Jeunes (Young Peoples' Welcome) organisation gave her a part-time grant for the first three months.



BY ELISABETH DE STROUMILLO

Luck got her a job last December with the Paris Circus, which brought in £100-odd, and friends gave her house-room. Eating then depended on precarious revenues. "Juggling on the Metro wasn't a success when it rocked about," she recalls. "But when it worked, people really enjoyed it."

At Easter time she went to Portugal with another circus-school girl, Karen, a dancer from London with a Portuguese father, and they did a double act in a Faro cafe "where we were treated like artists; it was great."

Back in Paris, they became involved with an English theatre group doing "Twelfth Night" in the Bois de Boulogne opera-air theatre. There was no pay during rehearsals, so they did late-evening street shows, first in the Champs-Elysées and later outside the Pompidou Centre.

Now she has a daytime

job in the toy department of a London store and will perform in Leicester Square in the evenings, and Covent Garden from Sunday. "Leicester Square could be tricky for a girl," she reckons, "but I'm going to position myself next to some French bagpipers, who are very nice."

Covent Garden is even better organised than the Pompidou Centre: you sign up on a list for what you hope will be a good half-hour slot, and they even have a special hottier (hat passer). He gets a percentage, of course.

And after Brazil? "When I'm about 26, I'll do a proper drama course, because then I'll be able to get more depth into it. Perhaps I'll try for real plays or perhaps I'll become a jester. Not a clown: that's too introverted, whereas jesters have a wonderful rapport with the people they play to. That appeals to me, but I'll need to know more about people first."

A LAST WORD ON SUPPERS

BEING among the guests at Glynis Christian's "last supper" was an experience as demanding as it was rewarding.

But it wasn't as kind as it sounded: the television cook and author was simply demonstrating the menu he had chosen for an original book of recipes, "Last Supper," that came out last year (HarperCollins, £9.50), in which top chefs and food professionals are asked to imagine their last meal.

We joined Glynis in his self-imposed and extravagant quest to decide on his favourite supper—sampling, Belgium, Serrano (very small, good), Russian Gold (from the top of immature salmon), and French Golden (from the Osetra sturgeon). He served it only with sour cream and saffron, brissoles.

The latter were a bit of a gastronomic distraction, at least to this inexperienced caviar tester.

His fresh salmon pickled with salt, sugar and ginger (pressed with weights for up to 48 hours) was the superb second course, served, originally, and effectively with a rare Palo Cortado cherry.

Next came wild mushrooms with snails in the crisp puff pastry layers garnished with sorrel: brilliantly conceived and cooked, but too pungent for my palate at last.

Glynis with raspberries and the abalone main course, served with New Zealand's enigmatic, richly named Late-Picked Riesling. These followed the freshest and charming salad with the appetising addition of poached whole cloves of garlic.

Finally, a sweet that looked so beautiful on the plate it was a sacrifice to eat it: wild strawberries with three fruits from Glynis's native New Zealand: passion fruit, the sweet-sour tamarillo and the highly-perfumed, guava-like Feijoa fruit. (You can substitute kiwi fruit for the latter.)

All the menus, and the recipes accompanying them in the book, are original but not all are quite so full of ideas and surprises. Now are they best among their choice of the guests they would like to invite to their last supper a famous ancestor, as can Glynis. He is the great-great-grandfather of Fletcher Christian, of "Mutiny on the Bounty" fame.

Lynne Edmunds

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Duke of Norfolk wins Catholic confidence vote

By CHARLES LAURENCE

THE Duke of Norfolk, Britain's premier Roman Catholic layman, last night resoundingly defeated a plan to oust him from the presidency of the Catholic Union in the wake of his criticism of the Church's ban on contraception.

The proposal for him to step down as President and for the post to be left vacant for a year, made by a follower of the hard-line Opus Dei organisation, was defeated by 86 votes to four at the Catholic Union's annual general meeting at Westminster Cathedral.

YARD UPSET BY 'KIDNAP PLOT' STORY

SCOTLAND YARD yesterday made its first complaint to the Press Council over a report in the Sun of an alleged IRA plot to kidnap a Royal child.

The complaint, in a letter to the council, came from Mr John Dillow, Assistant Commissioner (Crime).

The Sun report claimed that an IRA terrorist had been caught with the kidnap plans and that the targets were Prince William and Prince Harry.

The letter to the council also expressed concern about another Sun report last week about the Princess of Wales's brother, Viscount Althorp, a Yard spokesman said.

The Yard made it clear today that it had no evidence of its own to back up the kidnap claims.

Reporters questioned

After the story was published police said they were extremely concerned, because they were not aware of the alleged threat.

Anti-terrorist squad officers approached the two reporters concerned but they were unable to substantiate their story, said the Yard.

A spokesman for the newspaper said: "We are satisfied with the truth of the kidnap story which came from two separate sources. We believe that Scotland Yard's anger is based on the breakdown in communications between departments."

£10,000 BOND PRIZES

Winning numbers for £10,000 prizes in the December Premium Bond draw were: 51A1 678697 (Hampshire); 65A5 758697 (Berkshire); DK 703011 (Lancashire); DP 619540 (Leeds); SJL 593837 (Hampshire).

RSPCA aims to cut sales of furs

By JENNY SHIELDS

THE RSPCA launched a campaign yesterday against the killing of animals for their pelts in a direct response to the fur trade's efforts to popularise fur garments and expand the market.

The society, which estimates that over 22 per cent of British women own a fur garment, aims to reduce the demand for fur by a third within three years.

Their campaign, based on the slogan "Wearing Fur is a Moral Issue," will adopt some of the techniques used by similar animal organisations in campaigns on the continent where a drop in fur coat sales was recorded in Holland, Switzerland and West Germany.

Next year the RSPCA aims to contact two million households with campaign literature and posters, as well as a major advertising campaign.

Everyday item

Mr Mike Smithson, the society's campaign director, said yesterday: "The fur trade is trying to turn fur into an everyday consumer item by taking it out of the top stores and into the high street fashion shops. But what will be overlooked is that the raw materials of the trade are living animals."

Mr Stefano Ormrod, the RSPCA's chief wildlife officer, said: "Our declared aim is to prevent cruelty to animals. To produce one fur coat, up to 50 animals are subjected to at best severe hardship and at worst extreme cruelty. So to anyone intending buying a fur coat this Christmas, I would ask them to consider how many animals have died to make a present."

Mr Smithson said the society deplored the tactics of organisations like the Animal Liberation Front which in many cases "actually harmed the cause of animals' welfare. All the RSPCA's protests would be within the law."

After the meeting the Duke said: "I am very pleased. It is important that the freedom of speech in this Union should be maintained. People in it should be allowed to speak freely their own opinions when they are speaking as individuals."

In the speech to the teachers the Duke asked why Catholics who accept such operations as that for breast cancer should be "Christian Scientists" on sex and not allowed to use contraceptives.

He said of the approved rhythm method, "My wife and I tried that—it doesn't bloody work."

The Duke, who has two sons and three daughters, did not expect the speech to be reported and declined to air his views on birth control last night.

"It was meant to be a provocative address to teachers to wake them up. All doctrine should be open to discussion," he said.

Mr Hoare, who has eight children, had called for the Duke's resignation at an earlier meeting of the Catholic Union. Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, refused to intervene, saying he had no power over the lay organisation.

Mr Hoare said: "I am very sad. I did this because I love the church and the union. We have elected someone who does not believe in some of the Church's teachings. It is a sad day for the Church."

The Church's ban on contraception was stated in the Humanae Vitae Papal Encyclical of 1968.



Mr Roger de Grey (left), the new President of the Royal Academy, pictured with his predecessor, Sir Hugh Casson, after his election yesterday.

Roger de Grey is chosen by RA to succeed Casson

By KEITH NURSE

ROGER de GREY, 66, painter and treasurer of the Royal Academy for the past eight years, was yesterday elected 21st president of the 216-year-old Academy in succession to Sir Hugh Casson.

Effectively Sir Hugh's No. 2 at the RA headquarters in Burlington House, Piccadilly, he was the front-runner.

He won a "very healthy" majority from a general assembly of 59 Academicians and Associates.

Voting in favour of Mr de Grey, an oil painter whose recent works have been mostly French landscape studies, was said to be almost unanimous. "There is certainly no blood on the carpet," said Mr Peter Rodgers, secretary of the Academy.

The eight-year presidency of Sir Hugh Casson, 74, architect, water colourist and distinctly likeable public figure, noted for his wit and compassion, has been a highly effective one during which the Academy has acquired a much higher public profile and invaluable sponsorship support for its major exhibitions.

Staying on course

His is generally considered to be a difficult act to follow. The main aim in recent years has been, through a major public appeal for funds—£4.1 million has been so far raised towards a £8 million target—to put the Academy, which does not receive Government aid, on a much needed firm financial footing.

This appointment means that the Academy remains firmly on its present course, said one official last night.

One highly favoured candidate for the position was the sculptress Dame Elisabeth Frink, 54, but the possibility of the RA having its first woman president disappeared when she made it clear last month that she did not want to be considered.

Last night Sir Hugh formally presented his successor with the chain of office and gold medal in a brief ceremony on the main staircase to the galleries.

Mr de Grey is Principal of the City and Guilds of London Art School, and became an Academician in 1969. He has been a member of the RA's exhibitions committee since 1975 and was elected treasurer in 1978.

His paintings have been described as "some of the most gentlest and most beautiful of the century." His work has been widely purchased for both private and public collections in Britain and abroad, including the Queen's, the Tate Gallery and the Arts Council.

MAN FACES 7 MORE CHARGES

SEVEN new charges were brought yesterday by Bedfordshire police against a man accused of three rapes and other offences. The 32-year-old labourer made no comment during the five-minute hearing at Dunstable Magistrates Court.

A witness crowd gathered outside the court and jeered and booed as he was led handcuffed into a van bound for prison after the hearing.

The new charges alleged that on April 11 he indecently assaulted a woman at Linslade, Beds; on July 6, burgled a house at Cheddington, Beds; on May 15, and burgled a house at Heaton Reach, Beds; with a firearm on June 9.

Shotgun theft

The further accuse him of causing grievous bodily harm to a man at Leighton Buzzard on the same night; indecently assaulting a woman at Linslade, on July 6; burgling a house at Peterborough, on August 13; and entering a building at Milton Keynes with intent to rape on September 8.

The earlier charges against him were unchanged. He is accused of raping a woman, a man at Leighton Buzzard, South Yorks. He is also accused of stealing a shotgun with intent to endanger life in Leighton Buzzard and burgling a house in Leighton Buzzard while possessing a shotgun.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted and there was no application for bail. A committal date was set for December 20.

INVALID CAR ATTACK BY BOY, 7

A seven-year-old boy robbed a disabled pensioner as she drove home in her invalid carriage, snatching her purse containing £5, a pair of spectacles and a cheque card before running off down the high street at Thatcham, Berkshire.

Police later interviewed a boy about the weekend incident, but a spokesman said no action would be taken as the child was below the age of criminal responsibility.

Two nations to insure stately home exhibits

By ROBERT BEDLOW Estates Correspondent

THE £300 million pounds' worth of treasures from Britain's stately homes which are to go on exhibition next November in Washington are to be insured by the British and American Governments.

In an unprecedented move, priceless paintings, sculptures, furniture and other artefacts, are to be given top security rating from both governments.

The organisers of the exhibition have been given assurances from Mrs Thatcher and Mr Regan that the exhibits, to form "The Treasures of Britain" exhibition, will be watched by security agents "every inch of the way."

It is also understood that any damage or loss of exhibits from properties belonging to the National Trust, the Historic Houses Association, and private stately home owners, will be met by the two governments.

Added problem

An added problem for both governments and their security agencies will be the attendance of the Prince and Princess of Wales, who are patrons of the exhibition, and who are expected to be in Washington for the opening. President Reagan is also expected to be there.

Several major works of art have been discovered in Britain's country houses by researchers from America's National Gallery of Art who are staging the exhibition.

Mr J. Carter Brown, director of the Gallery said: "More than 600 historic works of art have now been identified for what will be the greatest single exhibition of British treasures ever seen outside the United Kingdom."

MORE SURGERY FOR TORY MP

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, 54, Conservative MP for Newbury, suffered kidney failure earlier this year, has been admitted to the Churchill hospital, Oxford, for surgery on a chest abscess caused by a secondary infection contracted during his kidney illness.

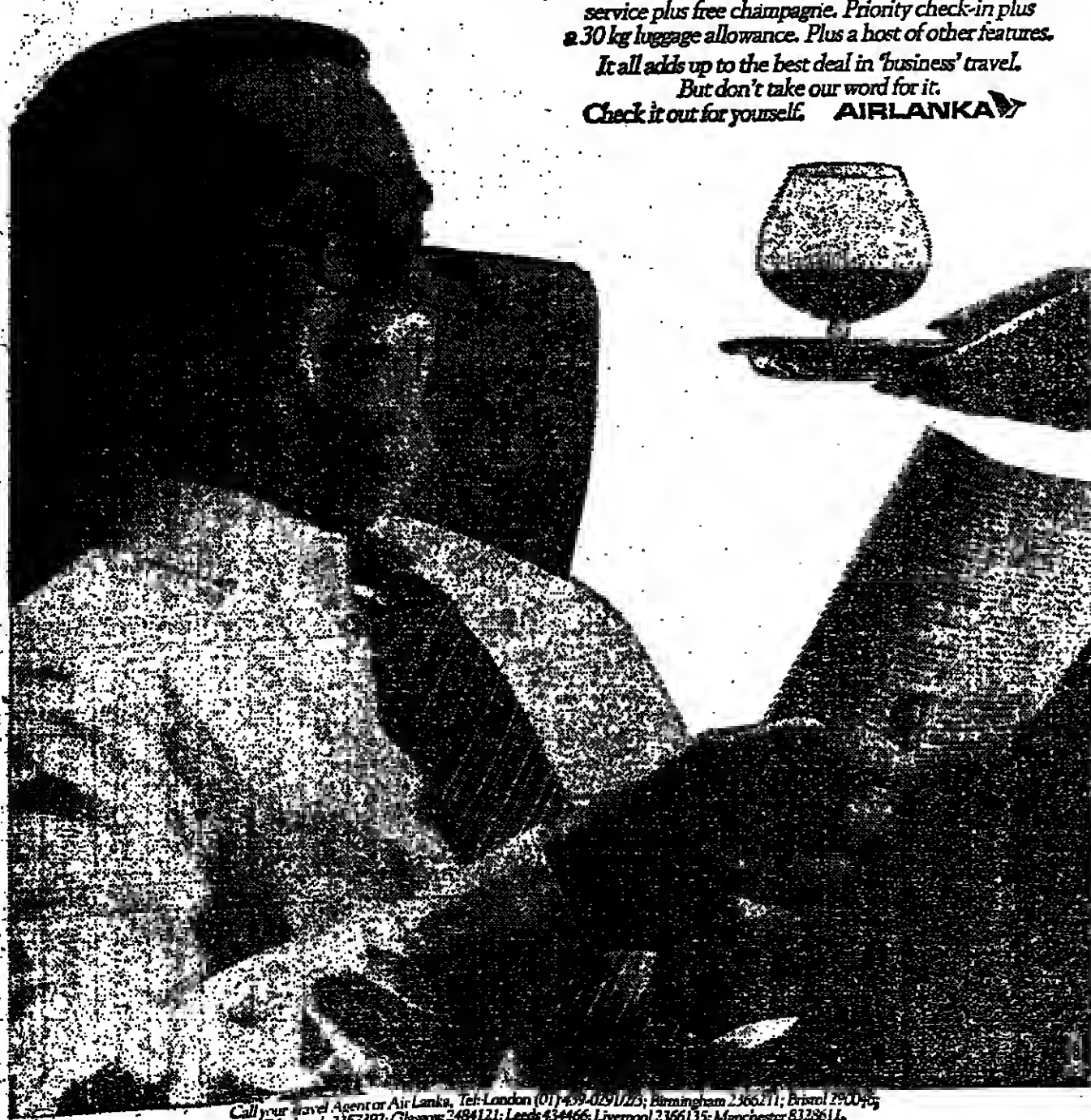
Last night he was "making satisfactory progress." It is the second operation in a month on the abscess, and it is hoped eventually he can go on the waiting list for a kidney transplant. He has held Newbury since 1974 and in the last election had a 13,038 majority.

CALLAGHAN TO REST

The former Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, 72, was yesterday discharged from St. Thomas's Hospital, London, where he had been undergoing tests. He is to rest for a fortnight.

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COMPANIES

Ferranti £3.7m up mid-way

DEFENCE electronics group Ferranti lifted opening half pre-tax profits from £14.8m to £18.5m on turnover of £233 against £207m.

Earnings came out at 30, compared with 26.2p adjusted for September's sub-division, and the interim goes up from 0.44p to 0.54p payable Feb. 4.

The order book, meanwhile, stands at a record level, up by more than 35 p.c. on the occasion a year ago. Notably, the company has been selected as the prime contractor for a new sonar to equip Royal Navy frigates, says the board.

Allied Colloids

PROFITS and dividend growth at Allied Colloids, industrial chemicals group, have continued for it has pushed opening half pre-tax profits up from £7.61m to a peak of £10.6m and the interim dividend goes up from an adjusted 0.5p to 0.7p on Feb. 28. Earnings came out at 3.06p (3.16p).

Despite British sales being adversely affected by the coal dispute, group turnover advanced from £7.7m to £8.8m helped by continued growth overseas and a favourable exchange rate.

The board does not expect any general deterioration of trading conditions in the chemical sector in the closing months of 1983. At the group made £10.6m for a full year out-turn of £18.2m (£17.2m).

Cent. & Sheerwood

THE IMPACT of "house-cleaning" weighed heavily on engineering to financial services group Cent. & Sheerwood in the first half. Pre-tax losses have swelled from £415,000 to £4.79m.

Aero & General jumps 38p

POSSIBLE bid approach left Aeronautical & General Instruments 38 higher at 358p, after 37.5p, yesterday despite a tumble in opening half pre-tax profits from a peak of £48,000 to just £48,000.

The company manufactures reconnaissance systems and telecommunications products. Telecommunications account for around three quarters of its business and rapid changes in this area are behind the profits downturn.

The change from largely mechanical to electronic technology, especially in the area of avionics, has seen the company undertake a major product development programme. Aeronautical & General, which is more than 25 p.c. owned by investment company, the Rea Brothers stable, is currently capitalised at £14.5 million.

MONEY & EXCHANGES

THE POUND galloped slightly against the dollar yesterday, rising to \$1.206 from \$1.205 overnight as the American currency lost ground in this trading conditions. The sterling index also held steady at 74.7 in spite of some weakness in terms of the mark and Swiss franc. Dealers believe the German currency's strength may have been the result of central bank intervention. In London money markets, conditions returned to normal after

FORWARD RATES

The forward rates for currencies for one month and six months are as follows:
Austria 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Belgium 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Canada 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Denmark 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
France 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Germany 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Italy 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Japan 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Netherlands 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Portugal 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Spain 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Sweden 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
Switzerland 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.
U.K. 4 1/2-5 1/2 p.c. 12-18 m. 15-20 p.c.

OTHER MARKET RATES

Effective Sterling Exchange Rate Index
NOV 74-6.75 01 CLO 74-7.74 01
1840 1975-1001

DOLLAR RATES

France 5.2700 5.2700
Germany 5.2700 5.2700
Italy 5.2700 5.2700
Japan 5.2700 5.2700
Netherlands 5.2700 5.2700
Portugal 5.2700 5.2700
Spain 5.2700 5.2700
Sweden 5.2700 5.2700
Switzerland 5.2700 5.2700
U.K. 5.2700 5.2700

EURO CURRENCIES

1 month 9 1/4-9 3/4 p.c.
3 months 9 1/4-9 3/4 p.c.
6 months 9 1/4-9 3/4 p.c.
1 year 9 1/4-9 3/4 p.c.

but these are struck after exceptional charges of £4.26m. Chairman Lord Eden says that the overall group position is likely to hold steady in the closing months and he reiterates his expectation of a return to profitability in 1985.

Once again, there is no interim and payment of the preference dividend due in January is being deferred.

Corporate borrowings at end-June have been reduced from the previous year's £25.5m to £18.5m.

Fairline Boats

THE IMPROVEMENT in business experienced by Fairline Boats in the first half continued in the second, and this power cruiser builder is increasing the dividend by 50 p.c.—a 1.5p final on Feb. 2, making a 2.625p (1.75p) total. Pre-tax profits for the year to Sept. 30 are ahead from £240,000 to £402,000.

The current year has started well with strong demand for all Fairline models. The order pattern at Feedback, the computer peripherals maker, is as it warmed in August, been such that shipments in the first half were insufficient to produce normal results. As a result, pre-tax profits have slumped from £320,000 to £25,000.

The interim dividend, however, at 1.25p, is the closing months will lead to a substantial recovery, the board says, and the interim dividend will be similar to last year's £1.03m pre-tax.

Fine Art Devs.

PROFITS recovery continues for the nation's biggest greeting card group with the first half pre-tax profits up from £155,000 to £482,000. Sales, including Selective Group for the first time, advanced £14.4m to £22.8m taking operating profits up from £1.25m to £2.38m. The interest

Glynwed sells S. African arm

WEST MIDLANDS engineering group Glynwed International yesterday announced the latest phase of its rationalisation of overseas businesses.

The group has agreed to sell its entire 74.2 p.c. interest in South African subsidiary Dely Corporation to Tek Corporation, a deal which will net Glynwed the equivalent of £3 million. Glynwed is retaining the foundry and pressings division of Dely, which will be held in a newly formed subsidiary, Glynwed South Africa. The British group is increasing its interest in that division to 100 p.c. The proceeds of the deal will go to reducing Glynwed's borrowings. In 1983 Dely made pre-tax profits of £2.2 million, of which the foundry and pressings side contributed £850,000. But the company produced a loss in the first half of 1984.

PAULS

PAULS took swift action to reduce costs following the drop in sales of cattle feed that resulted from the E.E.C. imposition of milk production quotas on dairy farmers last spring. Its agricultural operations are already recovering while its new activities are all growing. Looking ahead, it says much will depend on the determination of dairy farmers to make up for the present shortfall on their quotas and the consequent volume of cattle feed sold this winter. It is too early for the board to forecast results for the year to Sept. 30. It does not expect them to be significantly different from last time.

Meanwhile, first half pre-tax profits have risen from £4.55m to £22.41m but the interim is again 2.5p on Jan. 18.

REDPATH INDUSTRIES

REDPATH INDUSTRIES, Tate and Lyle's major Canadian subsidiary, has weighed in with full year pre-tax profits of £1.1m (£22.6m) in the 12 months ended September against £224.6m (£11.4m).

Net income rose from £255.5m to £284.5m, or 43 p.c. per share, against £214.5m, or 35 p.c. per share. The improvement reflects the elimination of the company's share of 1983 operating losses in Zimabwe and a lower tax charge. Revenue declined from £385m to £352m, directly attributable to lower world sugar prices.

The quarterly rate of dividend rose from 30 cents to 37.5 cents on March 1 and is a sub-division of the common shares on a three-for-one basis.

WAGON INDUSTRIAL

WAGON Industrial Holdings has had another record opening half with pre-tax profits up from £1.85m to £2.48m. With earnings up 1.86p to 5.85p the board is lining the interim to 5p on March 1. This is partly to reduce disparity.

Most of the British companies in this category better, and this should continue to be a sub-division of the common shares on a three-for-one basis.

IN BRIEF

British & American Film Holdings: First half pre-tax profit £230,000, turnover £1.74m; holding company and subsidiaries not consolidated. 6.52p (1.50p). Interim dividend 1.52p (1.50p) per ordinary share, pay Jan. 1. NAV 233.8p (212.4p) at June 30 and 272.8p (212.4p) at June 30 and 272.8p (212.4p).

ROUTLEDGE & Kegan Paul

ROUTLEDGE & Kegan Paul: First half pre-tax profit £105,000 (loss £49,000). Turnover £2.95m (£2.95m). Eps 9.1p (loss 4.4p) no interim dividend (same). Spencer Clark Metals Industries: Full year pre-tax profit £210,000 (loss £154,000) after interest charge £250,000 (£218,000). Turnover £9.72m (£9.20m). Eps 4.56p (loss 2.67p). Extraordinary dividend 2.5 p.c. (nil). Increasing demand from aerospace industry is encouraging.

PROPERTY AND REVERSIONARY INVESTMENTS

PROPERTY AND REVERSIONARY INVESTMENTS: First half pre-tax profit £1.08m (£890,000). Gross rental income £1.89m (£1.64m).

charge, however, was also up— from £1.08m to £1.91m. Earnings came out at 0.555p (0.198p) from which there is a same-again 1.1p interim on Jan. 18. Earnings continues in be buoyant.

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THE QUESTOR COLUMN

Handsome is as Hanson does

TEST the kids' maths with this one. A company starts the year with cash of £500 million. It spends £200 million on acquisitions. How much is left? Answer: £452 million—but only if the company is Hanson.

During the year Hanson has increased its cash in hand by £150 million, despite spending £425 million on the purchase of U.S. Industries and £240 million on London Brick, the cash element of the latter being about £70 million.

Cash is not the whole story, of course, and Hanson's long-term debt is up from £106 million to £797 million around £50 million of which is convertible stock issued against the Ever Ready acquisition and likely to be converted in February.

The fact remains, however, that net debt is still only 37 p.c. of shareholders' funds and Hanson is ready to not be pestered to make another major purchase.

Last year's pair of purchases added about £20 million to the pre-tax balance for the year to September 30, 1984, so the remainder of the £78 million increase to £169.1 million came from earlier glories.

At home, Alders (UDS) as well as a number of realisations put in £24.8 million and Ever Ready £31.9 million compared with £20.5 million.

London Brick was included for only seven months but nevertheless was the major factor in pushing brick profits from £7.8 million to £32.6 million. U.S. Industries was five months within the group and put in trading profits of £38.9 million.

In the current year, merely including for the full 12 months London Brick and U.S. Industries and allowing for reasonable growth in the other businesses pushes pre-tax profit projections towards the £220 million level.

That would provide another handsome increase in earnings per share to take the three year progression, before diluting for loan stock conversion, from 11.5p to 19.2p to around 25p. At 279p, the shares are still far from overblown.

Beer is best at Bass

THOSE of little faith got a hasty come-panance yesterday morning. A too-superficial reading of Bass final figures to September 30 made it appear it had undershot profit targets and the shares slipped 10p. Proper examination revealed the reverse (the confusion was over property profits) and the pre-tax profit increase from £175 million to £218.4 million, despite lower property profits, was enough to send the shares up 5p to the results, 5p ahead to 496p.

Bass's beer engine powered ahead during the year, with market share up by 1 p.c. The larger market as a whole grew by 8 p.c. and Bass did even better than that. Beer volumes were 0.5 p.c. ahead nationally, and again Bass claims a higher increase.

The strength of the beer business—which recorded a 27 p.c. trading profit increase—does, however, pose a problem for Bass in that its declared ambition of generating a quarter of group profits outside the drinks industry is further from realisation than ever.

Last year the non-drinks proportion of profits slipped from over 18 p.c. to under 16 p.c. as none of the leisure interests could hold a candle to the beer side—registering a growth rate of a lowly 8 p.c.

Bass is likely to get close to its aim only by acquisition, and even then its strong position in both hotels and betting limit the opportunities. Despite a mediocre performance from Pontins, Bass is still eyeing the holiday business. Maybe it will wait to see Grand Metropolitan's intentions towards Horizon Travel before making a move.

Financially, Bass is in a good position to move for despite capital spending of £180 million, it generated a £60 million improvement in liquid funds.

The current year is already off to a reasonable start and although it will contain only 52 weeks' trading, against 1983/84's 53 weeks, the pre-tax figure looks capable of rising to £250 million.

That leaves the shares selling at nine times earnings and still one of the best buys in an under-rated sector.

Nothing dull about GUS

GREAT Universal Stores is the retailing group which looks like a conglomerate. Its business stretches from mail order to chain stores, through merchandising and manufacturing to finance.

Shareholders have been glad of that mix for some years—about 35 to be exact, for that is how long GUS has been able to maintain a steady, if undramatic appreciation in pre-tax profits.

Half-time profits to September 30 suggest the trend is continuing with an increase from £92 million to £105 million. At 14 p.c. that rate of growth fits neatly into the top end of GUS's long-term range of between 5 p.c. and 15 p.c.

The reliability of results could encourage the view that GUS's shares are full performers. In fact the reverse is true. GUS's shares have moved from a high of 703p in March to a low of 495p in July despite lower property profits, before climbing back to 629p, was enough to send the shares up 5p to the results, 5p ahead to 496p.

They are, in short, a trading

stock. The steady growth record inspires investors to move in when the retailing sector looks set for a hard time, and move out when the going is easier.

At the moment the shares are probably just over mid-way through their investment cycle. There are question marks over the 1984 Christmas trade but consumer spending is running at reasonably high levels.

If the group can make £260 million pre-tax for the full year, against £226 million, the earnings multiple will be about 9.5 times. That probably has some way still to go and it will attract more support if the retailing cycle does fall away in the New Year.

Dollar troubles for BOC

THE soaring dollar might well have provided a handsome boost to Richard Giordano's famous salary last year but it also played havoc with BOC Group's United States exports.

That is evident from a ravaged contribution from the United States sale of electrodes and anodes during the year to September 30, 1984. Fortunately the company is able to report substantially more good news than bad.

The pre-tax level emerges just above the top end of stock market expectations at £137.8 million reflecting a strong performance from gases and health care as well as recovery from carbon, carbide and welding.

A good deal of chopping and changing took place last year as the company disposed of several important investments, including Delastream and Oxford Instruments, while also cutting out a large proportion of its loss-

making American welding interests. The termination costs of these have been taken below the line and are set against the profits of investment sales to leave an after tax credit of £12.5 million. But BOC has taken the full impact of trading losses on its discontinued activities on the chin. Operating profits for the year are struck after a £3 million loss on the welding side.

Profits from the gases operations expanded from £123 million to £145 million reflecting improved economic conditions in its major markets, Britain and the United States, and the company also saw the benefits of considerable investment in new plant and new applications.

Health care profits increased from £56 million to £85.8 million, and the improvement would have been greater but for the introduction of vigorous cost containment measures in the United States health care system.

The group will continue to have trouble with its American exports of aodes and electrodes as long as the dollar retains its present course. This will be largely offset in the current year by growth in specialist carbons, and under the company's modified historic cost accounting principles that should produce a pre-tax total of £165 million, against £138 million.

Under a straightforward historic cost accounting, that implies about £207 million, against £179 million, for a prospective earnings multiple at 25p of eight times.

For a group which has produced average compound growth of 15 p.c. over the last 15 years, that is an attractive rating.

One high interest cheque account keeps chequing out best.

ACCOUNT	EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE NET OF BASIC RATE TAX*	GROSS ANNUAL INTEREST RATE OR EQUIVALENT*
ABBEY NATIONAL - CHEQUE-SAVE - NEW APPLIED RATE = 8.00% FOR £2,500 +	8.16%	11.65%
SCHROEDERS - SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR £10,000+	6.94%	9.92%
MIDLAND - HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT	6.89%	9.84%
TYNDALL - MONEY ACCOUNT	6.80%	9.71%
M & G/KLEINWORT BENSON - HIGHER INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT	6.79%	9.70%
BRITANNIA/CATER ALLEN - HIGH INTEREST CURRENT ACCOUNT	6.76%	9.65%
BANK OF SCOTLAND - MONEY MARKET CHEQUE ACCOUNT	6.72%	9.60%
BARCLAYS - PRIME ACCOUNT	6.70%	9.57%
SAVE & PROSPER - PREMIER HIGH INTEREST BANK ACCOUNT	6.59%	9.41%

Quite simply, £2,500 plus in Cheque-Save gets you a net rate you'll find hard to beat in any other cheque account; even those offering "money market" rates.

Easy access.

Enjoy immediate access with your own cheque book without restrictions on the number or value of cheques you may draw on your funds.

* Interest rates shown are the annual percentage rate, where interest is compounded. Interest rates may vary, aware of comparative rates information, F.T. Money Market Bank Accounts, 5th Dec 1984.

Abbey National pays interest net of basic rate tax and the gross equivalent is shown for comparison only. Interest is calculated on a daily basis and applied half yearly or on closure.

Cheque-Save balances below £2,500 earn interest at 5.50% net applied rate p.a.

Abbey National Building Society, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6AL.

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Remember that with Cheque-Save you get all the security of Abbey National and its national branch network. You know where your money is. Just fill in the coupon.

Come on in now to the benefits of Cheque-Save. Just complete the coupon and send it to us with your initial investment.

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 I enclose a cheque, numbered _____, for £ _____ to be invested in a Cheque-Save Account at my local branch in _____.
 Please send full details and an application card.
 Minimum investment £100. Maximum £30,000 per person, £60,000 joint account.
 I understand that rates may vary and interest will be credited to the account half yearly.
 Full name(s) Mr/Ms/Miss _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____
 Signature _____ Date _____
ABBEY NATIONAL CHEQUE-SAVE
 Get the Abbey Habit

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1 MONTH NOTICE SHARE
 Minimum investment £250
 1 month notice for withdrawal without penalty. Immediate withdrawal with only 1 month's loss of interest on amount withdrawn.
 Gross Equivalent Rate to Basic Rate Taxpayer: 8.60% - 8.78%
 12.29% - 12.54%

6 MONTH NOTICE SHARE
 Minimum investment £250
 6 months notice for withdrawal without penalty.
 Gross Equivalent Rate to Basic Rate Taxpayer: 8.85% - 9.05%
 12.64% - 12.93%

3 YEAR PERIOD SHARE
 Minimum investment £250
 3 months notice for withdrawal. No interest paid on amount withdrawn during notice period.
 Gross Equivalent Rate to Basic Rate Taxpayer: 9.05% - 9.25%
 12.93% - 13.21%

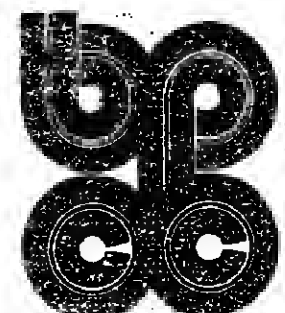
Representative Annual Interest Rate (Based on a £1000 Investment)
 All rates variable with Cheque-Save Share Rate. Interest rate shown is 12.50% p.a.
 Head Office: 175 London Road, Portsmouth PO2 3DL Telephone (0705) 693311
Portsmouth Building Society
 Member of the Building Societies Association and its Investors Protection Scheme. Established 1886. Authorised for Investment by Trustees.

BPCC Answers Waddington Shareholders' Questions

- Q. Why will the Offer not be extended? Why doesn't BPCC offer more?**
- A. The Waddington Chairman refused to negotiate any higher price. Surely unfair to shareholders. Intransigence seems to be catching in Yorkshire!**
- Q. Mr. Watson says BPCC offers no premium for control. Why?**
- A. We are obviously offering a generous premium. Our offer is worth 9.4 times our forecast of Waddington's earnings based on a tax charge of only 15%. This is 10% above the price earnings ratio on the average Packaging and Paper share, which is calculated on largely historic earnings. (* See below).**
- Q. What happens to the Waddington share price if the offer fails?**
- A. You don't need to be told that if our offer lapses next week - an offer which has largely fuelled the price rise - the price is likely to drop. The highest price which Waddington and its advisers thought they could place our holding in October 1984 was 410p per share.**

- Q. Mr. Watson seems worried that if the offer succeeds, Waddington would be controlled by the Pergamon Holding Foundation of Liechtenstein. Need we worry?**
- A. Certainly not. There is nothing wrong in this. P.H.F. controls Pergamon Press and through Pergamon Press, BPCC and Hollis Bros. and E.S.A. These companies and thousands of their shareholders have all done very nicely, thank you.**
- Q. Can you explain the 14 September, 1984 revision of the Waddington Executive Directors' employment terms? They have awarded themselves an average fixed remuneration of about £200 extra a week each.**
- A. You should ask them.**
- Q. What shall we do?**
- A. Accept the offer, and nail down your profit - a near fivefold profit if you owned Waddington shares before any bid was made in 1983. Not a bad profit by any standards.**
- 500P PER SHARE CASH IS VERY GENEROUS**
THIS OFFER WILL NOT BE EXTENDED AFTER 3.00 PM ON THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER**
ACCEPT IT NOW.

* On 5 December 1984, the latest practicable date before the printing of this advertisement, the FT Actuaries Index for Packaging and Paper shares stood at 269.02 and had a price earnings ratio of 8.53; and the all-Share Index stood at 568.82.



If you require a form of acceptance and transfer, telephone Henry Ansbacher at 01-283 2500.

**Unless the Ordinary Offer has become or been declared unconditional as to acceptances by then.

The directors of BPCC plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

BRADLEY HOPES TO RETURN FOR BULA HURDLE

By HOTSPUR

GRAHAM BRADLEY, the automatic replacement for Dermot Browne on Browne's Gazette, who tackles Gaye Brief in tomorrow's Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham, hopes to be fit enough to resume after his wrist injury, sustained at Hexham on Wednesday.

Bradley said last night: "It's getting better by the hour. I will see my physiotherapist tonight, and hope to be passed fit to take the ride." Browne's Gazette has been heavily backed for the Champion Hurdle, and Coral's cut his odds on Wednesday from 14-1 to 9-1 for the big race next March.

Bradley loses the mount today on Mrs Monica Dickson's Price Rowan, who

overweight, the six-year-old right Regent was a good novice who trained by David Elsworth three seasons ago, when he won Newbury's valuable Challow Hurdle. He missed the next two seasons but showed excellent form on the flat in 1985 and Martin Pipe seems to have after a spell of leg trouble. Leach begins his afternoon at Devon and Exeter where he

TODAY'S CHELTENHAM SELECTIONS

HOTSPUR	COURSE CORR.	FORM
12.30-Gala's Image	12.30-Burroughs	12.30-Gala's Image
1.5-Teddybush	1.5-Teddybush	1.5-Teddybush
1.40-Dragon Palace	1.40-Dragon Palace	1.40-Dragon Palace
2.15-KNOCK HILL	2.15-KNOCK HILL	2.15-KNOCK HILL
2.50-Maculiver	2.50-Maculiver	2.50-Maculiver
3.25-Right Regent	3.25-Right Regent	3.25-Right Regent
HOTSPUR'S DOUBLE-Knock Hill and Right Regent		
20.55-STAFFORD-Right Regent		

looks attractively weighted in the Food Brokers-Armour Chase at Cheltenham. Robert Earnshaw takes over.

Prince Rowan pulled up on his reappearance at Ayr last month, but still showed much of his customary sparkle before lack of fitness told against this habitual front-runner.

He will be sharper today, but has yet to show a glimpse as far as today's three miles and a furlong. He also concedes weight to two promising young chasers who may prove a little too strong at this stage of the season.

Door Latch, runner-up to Cybriandian in the H & T Walker Gold Cup, has been a consistent month's run as though today's extra few furlongs would be to his advantage.

But the John Webber-trained Knock Hill, who won the Food Brokers-Armour Chase at Cheltenham, may beat Door Latch.

When Right Regent ran with a Chepstow three-year-old last week, it was clear that Mary Pipe's mare would represent exceptional value at his present lowly handicap.

Despite the fact that he is 7th out of the handicap, Cheltenham's Coral Gold Cup Qualifier and that his rider Paul Leach will put up a few pounds

should be successful on Cats Eyes (15) before taking a belated start to Cheltenham for the right Regent.

Teddybush, always runs well at Cheltenham and may land a third course and distance victory in the Kington Conditional Jockeys Handicap Chase and Maculiver may outstay the opposition in the Embassy Premier Chase Qualifier.

Course Notes & Hints

Door Latch is Best

By Our Course Correspondent

DOOR LATCH, whose jumping has improved, may make the most of a lenient weight in today's Food Brokers-Armour Handicap Chase (2.15) at Cheltenham.

Josh Gifford's gelding showed plenty of potential in four starts last season, but a defeat in the Challow Hurdle at Newbury has done away with a couple of winning chances by making a bad mistake at a crucial stage.

But he jumped well when defeating the smart A. Klocman in the Sandringham Chase at Sandringham Park and confirmed the promise he made by winning the second time when snatching second place from previous winner Brave George.

Door Latch led to the 37th hurdle, but he was not in the distance in January but after blundering badly, finished 20th in the second to two Coppers. He looks like a consistent performer at 10st 7lb here.

Burroughs was heavily-backed to a competitive race at Newbury last Nov 14 and previously won the 11st 10lb handicap at Sandringham Park on Nov 25. He was 11th when 4th at Weymouth last Nov 21 and with a 10st 10lb handicap at Sandringham Park on Nov 21 and with a 10st 10lb handicap at Sandringham Park on Nov 21.

Gratification may make a successful debut over fences in the Embassy Premier Chase Qualifier (2.50) and Celtic Time is fancied for the Coral Gold Cup Qualifier (3.25).



Sir Kenwin (Anthony Webber) leads over the last fence on his way to victory at Taunton yesterday. Lucky George (left) finished second.

Cheltenham date for Combs Ditch

By MARLBOROUGH (John Oakley)

COMBS DITCH who collapsed after the "Michael Dickinson" Gold Cup of 1983, will be one of several past present and potential stars at Cheltenham tomorrow. After a convalescence of nearly 20 months, he will carry 10st 9lb in the two-and-a-half-mile Newent Handicap Hurdle.

The cause of Combs Ditch's distress has never been discovered, but although David Elsworth almost despaired of him at the time, the horse made a surprisingly quick and complete recovery.

"But then at the start of last season he began a tendency," the trainer says, "and we had to fire him."

"Just conceivably that could turn out a blessing in disguise, but in any case Combs Ditch now

seems to be going as well as ever. He has been entered in the King George VI Chase, says Elsworth, "but I might not be able to get him fit enough in time."

There were probably no Combs Ditch at Taunton yesterday, but Sir Kenwin made the perfect start to his new career over fences by upsetting the favourite Lucky George in the South West Racing Club Novices' Chase.

Well educated

Sir Kenwin did not win over hurdles, but he ran well several times and, like most of Roddy Armitage's horses, had clearly been well educated at home.

Jiminy Film was still going well in the lead when he slipped up on the final turn giving Mr Nigel Dunn a costly fall. Both Mr Dunn and Mr. Newman, brought down in an earlier incident on Captain Pat, were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Ran Hodges, who trains Lucky George, had already got off the 15-winner mark when Some Moor won the Chard Novices' Hurdle at Taunton yesterday. The 15-winner mark was held by the only "Easterner" who got into the score book.

Richard Dunwoody, who has been riding like a possible future champion since he turned professional, had a lucky escape when he was sent to the sick bay after a fall from the second last in the Bicknell Novices' Hurdle. He was almost certainly sent to the sick bay after a fall from the second last in the Bicknell Novices' Hurdle. He was almost certainly sent to the sick bay after a fall from the second last in the Bicknell Novices' Hurdle.

Show Jumping CHALLENGE TO EUROPE

By ALAN SMITH

JOE FARGIS, who won individual and team gold medals for the United States in Los Angeles, and the brilliant young Canadian Mario Deslauriers will provide hot opposition for the top European riders at the Bordeaux International Show which opens today.

Deslauriers, 18, became the youngest winner of the Volvo World Cup at Gothenburg last April, and he was then fourth both individually and with his team at the Olympic Games.

No show on the World Cup circuit goes to greater efforts to get the top riders than Bordeaux, and they have scooped the jack pot this time.

Deslauriers has brought over two horses including Aramis, his World Cup winner, and will travel on to Olympia next week.

Olympia absentee

Fargis, who misses Olympia to ride in the Volvo World Cup, is loaned to him by Germany's European champion Paul Schockemuehle, who is also here and will be anxious to gain points in Sunday's World Cup round towards qualifying for the final to Berlin next April.

Britain has four of the top five in the European League at present - after three qualifying rounds. Nick Skelton leads with 22 points, followed by David Broome and Michael Whitaker fourth and fifth.

All four are in Bordeaux, together with Harvey Smith and David Broome.

Australia's Thomas Fruhmman, who won the World Cup round here in 1983, is back again but the French riders will be hard to beat.

They are cock-a-hoop after taking first and third places in the 1983 European League. Philippe Rozier and Frederic Goussier are and are naturally at full strength for their home qualifier.

WIMBLEDON SEAT COSTS TO RISE

By JOHN PARSONS

WIMBLEDON, which made a record profit of £4.2 million this year, will be charging more for Centre Court seats in 1985. But the increases are modest and ground admission to the 18 courts stays the same.

To effect there will be a £1 increase on Centre and No. 1 Court seats, so that they will range from £16 to £17 instead of from £15 to £16 this year.

Reserved seats on No. 2 Court over the first nine days will be a uniform £8, which means an increase of £1 on the first two days.

Ground admission of £4 in the first week, £5 in the second, £6 in the third, £7 in the fourth, £8 in the fifth, £9 in the sixth, £10 in the seventh, £11 in the eighth, £12 in the ninth, £13 in the tenth, £14 in the 11th, £15 in the 12th, £16 in the 13th, £17 in the 14th, £18 in the 15th, £19 in the 16th, £20 in the 17th, £21 in the 18th, £22 in the 19th, £23 in the 20th, £24 in the 21st, £25 in the 22nd, £26 in the 23rd, £27 in the 24th, £28 in the 25th, £29 in the 26th, £30 in the 27th, £31 in the 28th, £32 in the 29th, £33 in the 30th, £34 in the 31st, £35 in the 32nd, £36 in the 33rd, £37 in the 34th, £38 in the 35th, £39 in the 36th, £40 in the 37th, £41 in the 38th, £42 in the 39th, £43 in the 40th, £44 in the 41st, £45 in the 42nd, £46 in the 43rd, £47 in the 44th, £48 in the 45th, £49 in the 46th, £50 in the 47th, £51 in the 48th, £52 in the 49th, £53 in the 50th, £54 in the 51st, £55 in the 52nd, £56 in the 53rd, £57 in the 54th, £58 in the 55th, £59 in the 56th, £60 in the 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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
IN MEMORIAL AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Announcements are accepted by the paper and printed in the DAILY TELEGRAPH, 135 Fleet Street, London E.C.4, on Saturdays by telephone 01-252 2010 or 01-553 9939.
Announcements can be received by telephone between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, on Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, etc., on Court Page 58 a line.
Court Page announcements cannot be accepted by telephone.

BIRTHS
AFFLECK—On Dec. 1, in Bermuda, to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Affleck, a daughter, Rebecca Jane, 10 lb 12 oz, 54 in, 94°.
ANDERSON—On Dec. 2, in York, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Anderson, a daughter, Emily Jane, 10 lb 12 oz, 54 in, 94°.
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TGWU TO DEFY ORDER TO PAY £200,000 FINE

By STEPHEN WARD Industrial Staff
THE Transport and General Workers Union said yesterday it had no intention of paying a £200,000 contempt fine, as Monday's deadline imposed by Mr Justice Hodgson in the High Court approached.

Eleven days ago the union was fined and given 14 days to pay for refusing to comply with an earlier High Court order to call off a strike at Austin Rover which had been called without holding a secret ballot of members.

The union has also decided at its national executive meeting this week to make official a three-week strike by 270 sewing machinists which has halted all car production at Ford.

The union has held no secret ballot at Ford either, and has given no indication that it is about to reverse its policy of non-compliance with trade union laws passed since 1973.

But Ford has repeatedly said it does not plan to follow Austin Rover's example by using the 1984 Trade Union Act to try to get the strike called off because it was called without a secret ballot.

Under the 1984 Act a court can order if it is asked to do so.

Policy the same
Although the Austin Rover strike petered out a fortnight ago, the company has said that if the fine is not paid, it will press for a writ for contempt of court.

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary, said: "Our policy remains exactly as it was outlined at the biennial delegate conference in June 1983. The wording of the policy says that we will not pay fines."

Asked if he was resigned to the union's assets being sequestered, he said: "Yes, but we know the road we were taking when in 1983 our biennial delegate conference took that decision."

Asked whether he considered it a little gesture not to pay the fine, because the strike was called off, he said: "It's not just Austin Rover. It's the Government's total legislation which involves us. Austin Rover is just one symptom of the problem we face with the Government legislation."

Continued from P1
By VALERIE ELLIOTT

Labour in turmoil

from the TUC for assistance, both practical and financial. Party leaders were also updated on the legal position and were told by Mr Scargill that at last Friday's High Court hearing he had instructed the N.U.M. lawyers to offer an undertaking that the N.U.M. would not shift any funds if the plaintiff dropped the application for receivership.

He said the plaintiff's lawyers accepted this undertaking but it was overruled by the court decision described as regrettable by the Labour leadership.

Under the headline "strike for N.U.M." they urge the TUC to call but workers in key industries alongside the miners and to make preparations for a general strike.

They describe the appointment of a receiver to control the N.U.M. funds as the most vicious threat to the freedom of the trade unions in their history.

They say: "This unprecedented attack by the courts puts the N.U.M. firmly on the spot. It cannot stand on the sidelines any longer."

Other pit news—P2
200 JOBS TO GO
Dewberry and Edwards, a Nottingham-based firm, is to close with the loss of more than 200 jobs, it was announced yesterday.

It was evident that Mr. Kinnoch's views and level of support in the trade union movement were not far enough to satisfy the party's left, even before the intervention last night of Mr. Benn, who argued that a general strike went beyond offering support for the miners.

It was to protect the liberties of the British people. "No one would contemplate such an action unless it became the only alternative to a complete capitulation to dictatorship," he argued.

But it would have to be properly planned, and arrangements worked out to maintain emergency services.

"The TUC must act now—not just in defence of the N.U.M. but for the rights of workers to organise in trade unions and run them free from State interference."

His sentiments are underlined today by Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the G.I.C. and Mr "Red" Ted Knight, joint editors of Labour Herald.

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Receiver

By TERENCE SHAW

Continued from Page One

The task and as litigation in Luxembourg, Ireland and Switzerland seemed inevitable, he also felt that in fairness to his partners clients and staff, he would not be able to devote himself full time to his duties as receiver.

It was also felt that it was more appropriate that a receiver with all the resources of a large firm and well used to this kind of work should "step into the breach."

Mr Heslop said that as Mr Brewer had so far been unable to take control of any union funds and repatriate them to Britain, the "not insubstantial" costs of his efforts in trying to secure the assets since last weekend had been "entirely at his own expense."

The 16 working miners are asking Mr Justice Mervyn Davies to continue, pending the emergency order he made last week, appointing a receiver to replace Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, Mr Michael McGahey, its vice-president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, its general secretary, as trustees of the union's assets.

They have claimed that these three are not "fit and proper" persons to continue as trustees because of their defiance of court orders which have placed union funds in jeopardy.

Before hearing Mr Brewer's explanation for wanting to stand down as receiver, the judge was read by counsel for the union leaders, Mr Gavin Lightman, O.C. an affidavit from Mr Martin Redmond, Labour MP for the Don Valley and an N.U.M. member for 20 years, attacking Mr Brewer's impartiality.

Opposing the continuation of the receivership order, Mr Lightman said that it must have been clear from the beginning that the appointment of Mr Brewer as receiver would be "objectionable and provocative."

He challenged the propriety of allegations of contempt of court by his clients being made in the receivership proceedings, and said that the appointment of Mr Brewer as receiver would be "objectionable and provocative."

The purpose of transferring the Don Valley and an N.U.M. member for 20 years, attacking Mr Brewer's impartiality.

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Commons Sketch

By EDWARD PEARCE

Without getting too pompous about it we really do have a manors problem in the Commons at present. The verbal equivalent of a sub-machine gun in a Chicago garage is fine, but Miss Clare Short and Mr Kevin Barron, no.

Miss Short is the mistress of a style which is about as subtle as a booky's overcoat. Throughout the Chancellor's speech she kept up a running yawl, made very marginally more bearable by our not being able to understand it.

Mr Barron, earlier, at Prime Minister's Questions, strode across the floor in the style of Tarquin (or possibly Mr Brockbank-Powder when he left to join the S.D.P.) and deposited under Mrs Thatcher's nose a copy of an article said to prove that the Coal Board has been using the wrong slide rule and that all our pits are profitable.

The article, about which Labour spent hours retching rhapsodic, was described by Mr Biffon, very Somerset-side, yesterday as "about to be incorporated into the New Testament."

Somewhat finessing is denied to the fervent Left and although their awfulness keeps needy sketchwriters in employment, there is something very depressing about it.

Not that we are partisan here: very little of Miss Short's gracelessness or Mr Barron's charm is missing in Mr Nicholas Winterton.

Hearing from Mr Biffon at business questions that we are to have a modest recess, coming back for work on January 9, he announced with the discreet charm of a road-baulge contractor that by coming back early the 9th falls in the middle of my recess.

"The Hon Gentleman," said Mr Biffon, "is reputed as the master of a ruthless logic. That may lead him to the decision that by coming back early he may attend the debate."

There are moments when Mr Biffon operates as the last sauntering sardonic line of public civility, proof of intelligent dissent, of civilisation in the chamber.

Something similar in a more didactic way might also be said of Terence Higgins, the chairman of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee.

The wells we know about: they want to spend lots of money on capital projects, but they don't want to spend money on capital projects.

The dries by contrast, recite certain forms of words about the medium-term financial strategy but, like the Chancellor yesterday, lead to be specific about one thing and one thing only: the release of £1.1 billion for tax cuts next autumn.

Mr Hattersley, who spoke yesterday, slips from somnambulating to patronising and, faced with a difficult question, announces that he will deal with it later.

Secure in orotundities, Mr Hattersley, when he sees an issue, reaches for his lapels and utters proposals in the highest unemployment options, only stumbling with "superannuation of 10-18 years olds" (a slip of the tongue for "supplementary benefit").

The pleasure of Mr Higgins, for those who hang onto economics by their fingernails, is that they will understand him. The difficulty is that, long on reasoned content, short on idiosyncrasy, he affects those in search of hot news like a wrangler at a strip show.

Parliament—P13
The Commons will adjourn for the Christmas recess on 21 and return on Jan. 9. The Lords are to rise on Dec. 20 and reassemble on Jan. 14.

40 ARRESTED IN WOMEN'S DEMO
By Our Perth Correspondent
A group of women protesters against nuclear weapons stormed the entrance to Western Australia's naval base at Garden Island yesterday.

Australian federal police arrested 40 of them as they clambered over a high gate and tore down the fence and tore down the fence and tore down the fence.

Two Britons have been charged with offences connected with the seizure of a British ship, the *Shirley*, in Tripoli, Libya, next week.

They are Mr Malcolm Anderson, an oil engineer from Wallend, Tyne and Wear, and Mr Alan Russell, a teacher from Hillbrook, Suffolk. The two men's cases are connected.

EEC AGREES TO NO-LEAD PETROL
By Our Common Market Correspondent
Ministers of the 10 Common Market countries agreed yesterday that unleaded petrol must be made available to motorists from the beginning of 1989.

But a German move to ban the sale of new cars that would run on unleaded petrol from 1989 was not accepted. Car production figures—P12